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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
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# CELEBRATION

OF THE

150th

# ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

# INCORPORATION OF AMHERST

NEW HAMPSHIRE

## JUNE 17, 1910

INCLUDING THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

ADDRESSES

AND OTHER EXERCISES OF THE OCCASION

COMPILED AND PRINTED BY
W. B. ROTCH,
1910

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Rotch, William Boylston, 1859-
comp.

Celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of Amherst, New Hampshire, June 17, 1910, including the proceedings of the Committee, addresses, and other exercises of the occasion. Comp. and printed by W.B.Rotch... [Amherst?,]1910. 0.

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HELP CARD

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# *The Town Charter.*

## PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

George the Second, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith,

To all to whom these Presents shall come,

Greeting:

Whereas, our Loyal Subjects, Inhabitants of a Tract of Land within our Province of New Hampshire, known by the name of Souhegan West, on the western side of Merrimack, have humbly petitioned and requested us that they may be erected and Incorporated into a Township and Infranchised with the same powers and privileges which other Towns within our said Province by law have and enjoy. And it appearing to us to be conducive to the general good of our said Province, as well as of the said Inhabitants in particular, by maintaining good order and encouraging the culture of the land, that the same should be done. Know ye therefore, that we, of our special Grace, certain knowledge, and for the encouragement and promoting the good ends aforesaid, By and with our trusty and well beloved Benning Wentworth, Esq., our Governor and Commander-in-chief, and of our Council for said province of New Hampshire, Have erected, and ordained, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, Do Will and ordain that the Inhabitants of the tract of land aforesaid, and who shall inhabit and improve thereon hereafter, the same being Butted and Bounded as follows: Viz., Beginning at Souhegan River, thence running north 1 degree west on the townships of Merrimack and Bedford six miles, thence running west on Bedford and a tract of land called New Boston six miles, thence South about five miles and a half to Souhegan River aforesaid, thence by said River to the place where it began: Be, and hereby are, declared and ordained to be a Town Corporate, and are hereby erected and Incorporated into a body Politic and Corporate, to have continuance until the first of January, 1762 by the name of AMHERST, with all the Powers and Authorities, Privileges, Immunities, and Franchises, which any other Towns in said Province by Law hold and enjoy, to the said inhabitants, or who shall hereafter inhabit there, and their successors for said term; always reserving to us, our Heirs and Successors, all White Pine trees that are or shall be found growing and being on said tract of land fit for the use of our Royal Navy; Reserving also to us, our Heirs and successors, the power and the right of dividing said town, when it shall appear necessary and convenient to the Inhabitants thereof. Provided, nevertheless, and it is hereby declared that this Charter and Grant is not intended, and shall not in any manner be constructed to extend to or effect the Private Property of the soil within the limits aforesaid. And as the several towns within our said Province aforesaid are by the laws thereof enabled and authorized to assemble and, by the majority of voters present, to choose all such officers and transact such affairs as are in the said laws declared:—We do by these presents nominate and appoint Lieut, Col. John Goffe to call the first meeting of said Inhabitants, to be held within said town at any time within forty days from the date hereof, giving legal notice of the Time and design of holding such Meeting,—After which, the Annual Meeting in said Town shall be held, for the choice of Officers and the purposes aforesaid, on the second Monday in March, annually.

In testimony whereof, we have caused the Seal of our Province to be hereunto affixed.

Witness, Benning Wentworth, Esquire, Our Governor and Commander-in-chief of our said Province the eighteenth day of January, in the Thirty-Third year of our Reign, and in the Year of our Lord Christ, One Thousand and seven hundred and sixty.

B WENTWORTH.

By his Excellency's Command, with advice of Council:

THEODORE ATKINSON, SEC'Y.

FIRST TOWN HOUSE AND SECOND CHURCH

## *Vote of the Town.*

Voted that the Selectmen be instructed to act as a committee and to choose as many others to act with them as they deem necessary to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the town, 1910.

Voted that the Selectmen be allowed to appropriate a sum not to exceed $300 for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the town, 1910.

Voted that Horace T. Harvell be instructed to ask the legislature to legalize the vote of the town in regard to raising $300 for celebrating the 150th anniversary of said town.

## *Act of the Legislature.*

**HOUSE BILL . . . . . NO. 572**

Introduced by Committee on Judiciary.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND NINE.

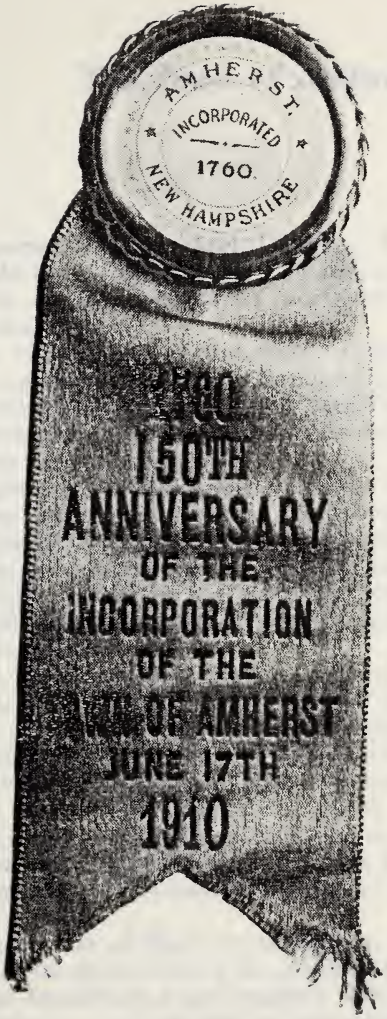
AN ACT

Authorizing the Town of Amherst to Appropriate a Sum Not Exceeding Three Hundred Dollars to Celebrate the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Amherst.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

SECTION 1. The Town of Amherst is hereby authorized to appropriate a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars for the purpose of celebrating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Amherst.

SECT. 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage, and all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.


AMHERST
INCORPORATED
1760
NEW HAMPSHIRE
150TH
ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
INCORPORATION
OF THE
OF AMHERST
JUNE 17TH
1910

## *The Town of Amherst*

Amherst, (Hillsborough County), N. H., is situated in latitude 42 - 51 minutes N.; 28 miles south of Concord; 12 south of Manchester; 11 northwest of Nashua; 48 northwest of Boston.

The village, one of the most beautiful in the State, lies upon a plain, or plateau, half a mile in extent, skirted on the north and east by a broad meadow, which receives its water-flow from the first highlands encountered by travelers from the State line below.

In thus approaching the town the Uncanoonucks in Goffstown tower at the north, while between lie the lesser Joe English and Mont Vernon, and westerly are seen the highlands of Lyndeborough, Temple and Wilton. From some higher points in the town the lofty Monadnock is visible, and farther south, Wachusett and other mountains in Massachusetts.

The hills, which at a short distance nearly surround this plateau or "plain," as it has ever been known, form almost a perfect amphitheatre; while through the intervening meadow at the north and east flows Beaver Brook to its junction with Souhegan River, three miles below.

The soil of this plateau is a sandy loam, of aqueous deposit, which, with the conformation of its surroundings, has given rise to the belief that it once formed the bed of a lake, whose waters found an outlet in the line of Beaver brook.

The surface of the town is uneven, and its soil diversified. Upon either side of the Souhegan, which traverses its entire breadth in a southeasterly direction, is a belt of rich intervale, very productive, including some of the best farms in town. These lands were part of the Souhegan Farms granted to individuals as early as 1660, and were cultivated by the Indians as cornlands, those lying about the mouth of Beaver brook being known to them by the euphonious title of Quohquinapassakessanahnog, which

name is now frequently erroneously applied to the brook itself. Below, the soil is sandy and unproductive, also, northward to the plain; but the hill lands, at the north and west, afford many fine and productive farms, and the more rocky portions, excellent pasturage.

Walnut hill is its most conspicuous prominence, seen from all parts of the town, and an object of beauty from its conformation. Chestnut hills form the highest elevation, rising at the northeast of the town. Wilkin's hill (later known as Holmes's and now as David's,) adds beauty to the village, as its background at the south; while just below it rises the "Great Rock," so-called, in days past more than now, a quite famous resort of the youth of the village in their rambles. Christian hill, at the west, derived its name from the religious character and devotion of a past generation, having had among its residents two pastors, and three deacons, and nearly every dwelling its family altar. Moderator hill, next north of the plain, has taken this name from being the home of the Campbells, Secombs and Macks, who, for the last century, have largely furnished the town its presiding officers. Other peculiarly named localities are Straddle-pole, a gorge at the north, taking its name from the denseness of its undergrowth; Skinner's Row, running by Fisk's mill, of which it was early said, "If a man had two coats he did not live there;" Pond Parish, so named from its adjacence to the Babboosuck; Cricket Corner, at the southeast, from its multitudinous crickets, and earlier, Honey-pot Row, from the abundance of wild honey found in its forests. Very early the street running north from the plain (or "training field as it was also called,) to the first meeting-house was known as Upper Flanders, and was the residence of the elite of the town. The portion of the town adjoining Milford is now known as the Acre, being mainly owned by Irish.

Dr. Jackson, in his report of the survey of the township, (1844) says: "The pretty village of Amherst is spread out in a valley of ancient alluvial origin, which appears as if it once formed the basin of a lake, but was subsequently filled in part with soil of a sandy loam, derived from ancient drift from the north. Six miles from the village, N. N. E., near the line of Bedford, on the estate of widow Betsey Stevens, was found a bed of limestone, included in mica slate rocks. Mingled with it are a few rare and beautiful minerals. Crystal of ageran, larger than any before found in New England, one being four inches long and two and one half inches in diameter were

## *Proceedings of the Committee.*

The first meeting of the committee appointed by the town to arrange for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the town in 1910 was held in the selectmen's room, Saturday, September 24, 1909, at 2.00 o'clock.

The following members were present: Horace T. Harvell, Percy J. Odell, Aaron M. Wilkins, Ernest H. Peaslee, Eugene C. Hubbard, Enos S. Robinson, Frank A. Holbrook, Herbert A. Fuller, Louis E. Clark, Benjamin F. McNamee, Rev. Charles E. White.

The meeting was called to order by Percy J. Odell, chairman of the board of selectmen, and organization was effected by the election of the following officers: Chairman, Aaron M. Wilkins; secretary, Rev. Charles E. White; treasurer, Eugene C. Hubbard.

It was then voted that the celebration be held on Friday, June 17, 1910.

It was further voted that a committee of three be appointed to secure speakers for the day, and the following members were appointed: Messrs. Wilkins, White and Hubbard.

The following committees were also appointed:

Music: Messrs. White, McNamee and Peaslee.

Publicity, (printing, advertising, invitations, etc.): Messrs. Fuller, Harvell and Clark.

Decorations: Messrs. Odell, Peaslee and Robinson.

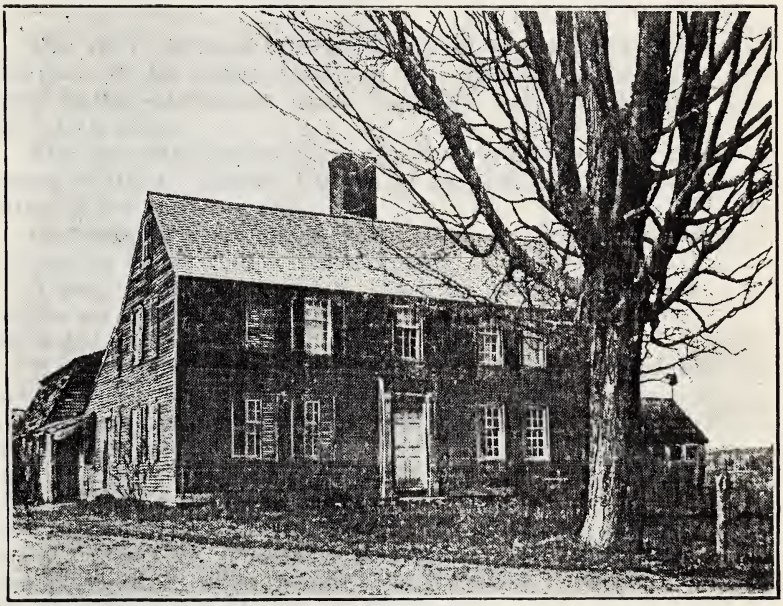
Collation: Messrs. McNamee, Robinson and Odell.

Sports: Messrs. Holbrook, McNamee and Robinson.

Reception: The entire committee.

The second meeting of the committee on the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Amherst was held in the selectmen's room, Saturday, November 27, at 2.00 o'clock, with Hon. A. M. Wilkins in the chair.

The committee on speakers reported that it had secured Col. W. B. Rotch of Milford to give the historical address,



SAID TO BE THE FIRST FRAME HOUSE IN AMHERST

and the following gentlemen as other speakers: Gustavus G. Fletcher of Chattanooga, Tenn., George W. Putnam of Lowell, Mass., Jeremiah J. Doyle, Esq., of Nashua, N. H.

The music committee reported the securing of the Laurel Band of Milford for the date, June 17, 1910, with 25 pieces or more, from 9.00 A. M., through the day, the price to be $80.00.

It was voted that the Village Improvement Society be requested to assist the committee by having the flag-pole in the park put in condition for use.

The third meeting of the committee on the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Amherst was held in the selectmen's room, Saturday, January 29, 1910. at 2.00 o'clock.

The committee on speakers reported the addition of the name of Prof. Warren Upham of St. Paul, Minn., as a speaker for a brief period.

By reason of his removal from town, the resignation of Benjamin F. McNamee was accepted.

It was voted that Louis E. Clark be added to the committee on collation to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of Mr. McNamee.

It was further voted that the name of Louis E. Clark be added to the committee on sports in place of Mr. McNamee.

The names of the following were approved as special invited guests of the occasion: The Governor of the State and his staff, Congressman F. D. Currier, Congressman Cyrus Sulloway, Senator Henry E. Burnham, Senator Jacob H. Gallinger, the speakers of the occasions, and their wives, James W. Towne, East Orange, N. J., the county commissioners, Judge David Cross, Manchester, Senator R. P. Bass, Rev. and Mrs. A. J. McGown.

It was voted that the Towns of Milford and Mont Vernon be invited to choose and send representatives, and that Hollis, Merrimack, Bedford and New Boston be invited to choose and send a representative. Also Exeter, suggesting Attorney-General E. G. Eastman as representative; Salem, Mass., suggesting ex-City Marshall William M. Hill as representative; Portsmouth, suggesting Calvin Page as representative.

The following gentlemen were named as honorary vice-presidents of the day: Solomon Prince, Frank Hartshorn, William Pratt, J. Appleton Skinner, William Melendy, Albert M. Philbrick, James B. David, (declined), John A. Boutelle, William S. Peaslee, Pliny F. Odell, William R. Clark, Dr. John H. Clark, (declined). Later were added:

Alfred Noyes, Washington, D. C., Ephraim A. Parkhurst, James S. Parkhurst, Silas P. Parkhurst, Lemuel Fuller. (declined.)

The fourth meeting of the committee on the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Amherst was held in the selectmen's room, Saturday, February 26, at 2.00 o'clock.

It was voted, after discussion, to invite the Rev. A. J. McGown to act as president of the day.

The secretary was instructed to report to the town meeting the progress of the committee in its arrangements.

The fifth meeting of the committee was held in the selectmen's room, Saturday, March 26, 1910, at 2 o'clock.

It was voted that a temporary stand, 48 x 30 feet with 4 foot posts, be built, and that the chairman and secretary be a committee to have the same built.

It was further voted that the treasurer and secretary be a committee to make inquiries regarding a permanent marker for the site of the first church building.

The sixth meeting of the committee was held in the selectmen's room, Saturday, April 30, at 2.00 o'clock.

It was voted to accept the recommendation of the committee on collation, and that the Page Catering Company of Lowell be asked to serve us, the price being 75 cents per plate, with $10.00 for teaming.

It was voted that a granite marker be purchased and placed on the site of the first church building, the cost not to exceed $60.00. The chairman appointed for this work: Messrs. White, Peaslee and Holbrook.

It was also voted to invite the King's Daughters to take charge of the decorations, including the town hall, school house and residences.

It was voted that Rev. C. E. White be asked to act as chaplain of the day; and further that an invitation be extended to Dr. George H. Wilkins to act as president of the day.

The seventh meeting of the committee was held Saturday, May 14, at 2.00 o'clock.

The secretary was authorized to contract with the Ehrman Company, of Milford, for 500 badges, at 8c a piece, together with cut of seal.

It was voted that the committee on printing be instructed

to secure the printing of 1500 programs at the best price possible, the cost not to exceed $75.00.

It was also voted to secure not more than 15 painted signs to indicate places of especial interest at 75 cents a piece.

C. E. WHITE,
SECRETARY.

## *The Invitation.*

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO BE PRESENT

AT THE EXERCISES COMMEMORATING THE

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE

TOWN OF AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE THE SEVENTEENTH

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TEN

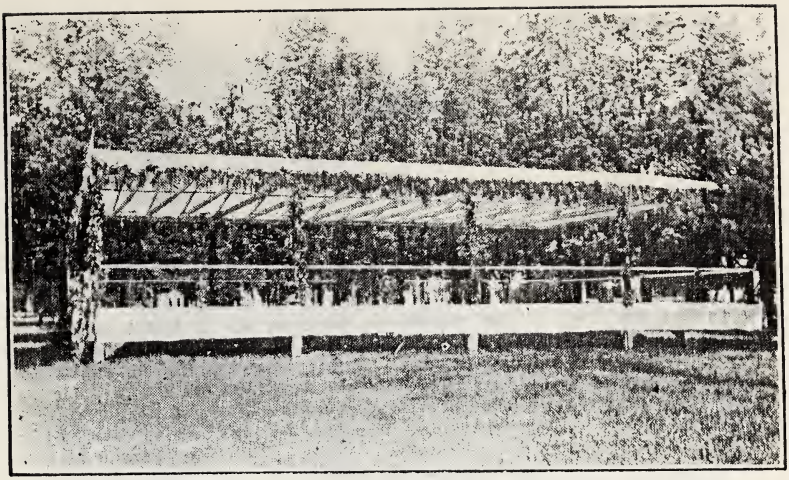
BEGINNING AT NINE THIRTY O'CLOCK

HERBERT A. FULLER
CHAIRMAN

LOUIS E. CLARK

HORACE T. HARVELL
COMMITTEE ON INVITATIONS

PLEASE REPLY



THE GRAND STAND

THE RAILROAD STATION AND DECORATIONS

## *Letters.*

26 Nov., 1909.

Mr. William B Rotch,
Milford, New Hampshire.
My dear sir:—

On behalf of the program committee for the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Amherst I am requested to ask you to deliver the historical address on that occasion, June 17, 1910.

With the earnest hope that you will be able to accept this part, and in such a case, believing that it will be in the hands of one whose knowledge and love of Amherst is unsurpassed, I am, on behalf of the committee,

Most cordially yours,
CHARLES ERNEST WHITE,
Sec'y.

Milford, Nov. 28, 1909.

Rev. Chas. Ernest White,
Sec. Program committee.
Dear sir:—

The kind invitation of the program committee of the 150th anniversary of the town of Amherst is received and I accept with pleasure the invitation to prepare an historical address for that occasion. Amherst has a rich history and it will be a true pleasure for me to assemble such facts and incidents as appear to me appropriate for the occasion.

Very truly yours,
WILLIAM BOYLSTON ROTCH.

U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 25th, 1910.

Gentlemen:—

The invitation of the town of Amherst to attend its one hundred and fiftieth birthday anniversary, was received. I have delayed answering pending the fixing of the date of adjournment of Congress. At the present time there appears little prospect of final ajournment before July. If I were to be in New Hampshire at the time of the celebration I should take great pleasure in being present. The important part Amherst has taken in the early history of the state; her record in the revolutionary war, her interesting chapter in the early administration of justice in the state as well as the character of the men she has reared and sent out, are familiar to every lover of the Granite Hills and she does well to commemorate this passing mile stone.

I send my hearty congratulations and my regrets at my inability to be present.

Very truly yours,
F. D. CURRIER.

U. S. SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 22, 1910.

Gentlemen:—

Acknowledging the receipt of a cordial invitation to be present at the exercises commemorating the One Hundred and Fiftieth anniversary of the Incorporation of the town of Amherst, on Friday, June 17th, it is a matter of regret to me that I am unable to accept the invitation, the probabilities being that I will not be in New Hampshire at that time.

Trusting that the occasion may be one of rare pleasure and profit to those who may be privileged to attend, know me to be

Sincerely yours,

J. H. GALLINGER.

U. S. SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 22, 1910.

Gentlemen:—

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter and invitation to be present June 17th at the 150th Anniversary of the Incorporation of your town of Amherst.

It is impossible to tell when Congress will adjourn. Perhaps it may be in session at the time named, but if we adjourn in season I expect to be present

It will be an occasion of very great interest and I shall regret exceedingly if I am unable to attend.

Thanking you for this very courteous invitation, I am

Cordially yours,

HENRY E. BURNHAM.

U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 22, 1910.

Gentlemen:—

I am in receipt of your kind invitation to attend the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of Amherst as a town, on June 17th. I desire to thank you very much for the invitation, but I regret to state that I hardly think it will be possible for me to be present for the reason that it now looks as though we would be in session here until the last of June.

Again thanking you for your kindness in remembering me, and with best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

C. A. SULLOWAY.

NEW YORK, June 7, 1910.

Gentlemen:—

I have your invitation for me to be present at the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Amherst, N. H. I have delayed replying until the present time, hoping I should be able to say that I would be present, but a number of things here interfere, and I very much fear I shall not be with you on that day, much as I should like to. It would be a great disappointment to me not to be there. I know you will have a nice time, and I would be glad to meet some of the old people whom I have not seen for many years.

Thanking you most cordially for your invitation, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

J. W. TOWNE.

## *Copy of Official Program*

SOUHEGAN RIVER AND OLD TURNPIKE BRIDGE

### 150th Anniversary Committee

Hon. Aaron M. Wilkins, Chairman
(Deceased May 27, 1910)
Rev. Charles Ernest White, Secretary
Eugene C. Hubbard, Treasurer

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Percy M. Odell | Ernest H. Peaslee | Enos S. Robinson |
| Louis E. Clark | Herbert A. Fuller | Horace T. Harvell |
| | Frank A. Holbrook | |

President of the Day, Dr. George H. Wilkins

### Honorary Vice-Presidents

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Solomon Prince | Frank Hartshorn | William Pratt |
| J. Appleton Skinner | William Melendy | Albert M. Philbrick |
| James S. Parkhurst | John A. Boutelle | William S. Peaslee |
| Pliny F. Odell | William R. Clark | Alfred Noyes |

Ephraim Parkhurst Silas P. Parkhurst

### Centennial Committee

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Selectmen | Perley P. Dodge | Barnabas B. David |
| Edward D. Boylston | Charles H. Campbell | David Stewart |

# Greeting

The Town of Amherst flings open wide its doors today to all of its many children and friends. A century and a half old, her heart is still in the right place, young and warm toward her lovers and well-wishers. Her stately trees throw out their welcoming arms to you, and reach up into the blue of heaven to bring its benson of peace. Her well-kept streets and walks are yours to travel. Her quiet homes leave out the latch-string in truest hospitality. Her objects of interest and veneration invite your attention everywhere. To all that old Amherst can give you today you are one and all welcome.

THE OLD TURN-PIKE INN *By Tucker*

The exact date for the anniversary would be the 18th of January, but owing to the frequently rigorous weather of that month, the celebration has in both cases been observed later in the year, the centennial date chosen having been May 30, 1860

SITE OF THE FIRST MEETING-HOUSE

HERE WAS ERECTED THE
FIRST MEETING-HOUSE IN
AMHERST, MAY 16, 1739;
IN 1771 GIVEN TO THE
COUNTY FOR ITS
COURT-HOUSE; REMOVED
TO THE PLAIN IN 1789.
AND THERE BURNED.
THIS STONE
PLACED JUNE 17, 1910

INSCRIPTION ON MARKER

In 1739 the fathers "raised" their first meeting house under the direction of Capt. Ebenezer Raymond. Fourteen years did not see its completion, and at the incorporation of the town in 1760 it had not been completed. They had, however, built roads in all directions to the meeting-house, and the settlers had generously used the house both for religious and civic purposes. Among the settlers was a young Harvard graduate, Daniel Wilkins, whom they made their first minister, serving 43 years. He was ordained, Sept. 23, 1741, over the church of six male members organized the day before, and so began his ministry, with a charge over sixteen families and a church of a dozen members, male and female

The first court-house was the meeting-house; in 1788, this, the second, was built. Here Daniel Webster made his maiden plea. The new court-house was erected about 1825. County courts were held here until 1866, a total of 108 years

SECOND AND THIRD COURT-HOUSES

THE HILLSBORO BANK

Building erected about 1806, the first bank in all this section of the state. Farmers' Bank from 1825-1843

THE CABINET OFFICE

Here for 91 years the weekly paper was issued, a large publishing plant carried on, and a book-store maintained for part of that time

BRICK EXCHANGE

Built by Joseph Cushing about 1809 for a publishing house, but not so used. Home of many industries, chief among them a large stove business carried on by Harrison Eaton in connection with the old foundry, part of which still stands on Foundry Street

*From post-card*

STEEPLE VIEW TOWARD "UPPER FLANDERS"

## Anniversary Exercises

9.30 SELECTIONS by the Laurel Band

9.45 INTRODUCTION of the President of the Day, Dr. George H. Wilkins, of Newtonville, Mass., by Representative Horace T. Harvell

PRAYER by the Chaplain of the Day, Rev. Charles Ernest White

REMARKS by the President of the Day

10.00 HISTORICAL ADDRESS by Col. William B. Rotch, Milford

10.45 SELECTION by the Band

10.50 ADDRESS by Gustavus G. Fletcher, Chattanooga, Tenn., on "Sentimental Reminiscences"

11.25 ADDRESS by George W. Putnam of Lowell, Mass. on "Amherst Men and Amherst Affairs"

11.50 SELECTION by the Band

12.00 ADDRESS by Dr. Warren Upham, St. Paul, Minn., on "Home-Life in Amherst Fifty Years ago"

12.30 DINNER, served by the Page Catering Co., Lowell, at seventy-five cents per plate. During the dinner hour the Band will give a number of selections

STEEPLE VIEW TOWARD MONT VERNON

## Anniversary Exercises

2.00 CONGRATULATORY ADDRESSES
His Excellency the Governor, Henry M. Quinby
Senator Robert P. Bass
Mayor Eugene C. Reed, Manchester
Judge David Cross, Manchester
Ex-Governor John McLane, Milford
Rev. Henry P. Peck, Mont Vernon

3.00 SELECTION by the Band

3.05 ADDRESS, Ex-Mayor Jeremiah J. Doyle, Nashua, on "The Town and the State"

3.30 BASE-BALL GAME, Amherst vs. Hollis, on Busyfield

3.30 OCCASIONAL ADDRESSES—
Charles P. Spofford, Claremont
William G. David, Lyons, N. Y.
And others

4.00 DEDICATION of the marker designating the site of the first meeting-house, at the stand

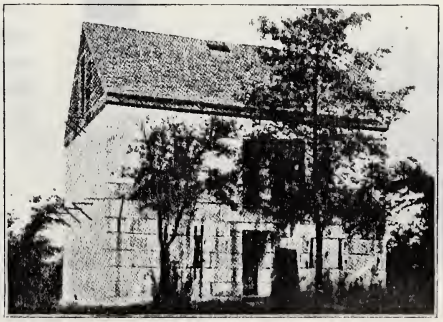
7.30 to 9.30 Band Concert

This, one of the oldest buildings in Amherst, was a garrison house under King George III., as early as 1772. Afterwards it was the home of Hon. Joshua Atherton

OLD GARRISON HOUSE

In 1771, Amherst being now the shire town of Hillsborough county, not only was a court-house needed, but also a jail. Consequently one was erected near the meeting-house. Soon after, another, a log affair, was built on the plain and in 1810 the stone jail was erected. Within its grim walls many noted criminals were confined, and from it aniel Farmer in 1821 was taken to be hung on the site of Mrs. G. W. Nichols' house. A few years ago the old jail was sold and torn down, many of the stones being built into the bridges and culverts of the town. One large stone with ring attached, to which the specially violent prisoners were chained, is to be seen in the Park near the flag-pole

At its base is also to be seen the stone lintel of the door with the figures "1810" carved on it, indicating the date of its erection. It is much to be regretted that the old jail was not preserved as an historical relic



THE OLD JAIL *From post-card*

BAPTIST CHURCH

Organized on Chestnut Hill in 1828, continuing there until 1837, the company then moving its meeting-place to the Plain. In 1844 this building, erected originally by the Unitarians, about 1825 was purchased

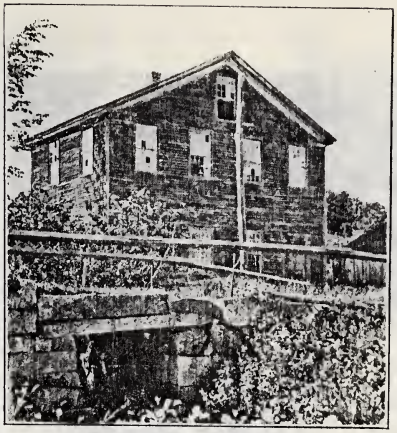
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

This, the second meeting-house was erected Jan. 19, 1774, but originally stood in the Park facing west. In 1836 the building was purchased by the Congregational Society, the town reserving the steeple and front, and moved to its present site

FORMER METHODIST CHURCH

Built in 1840 and used about 40 years, when services were discontinued

From the very earliest days opportunity for education was granted to children, but not until 1762 was the town districted for school purposes. About 1800 this school-house was built, and when the brick school was erected in 1853, half of the building was removed to the Lyndeboro road



OLD SCHOOLH-OUSE

THE BRICK SCHOOL-HOUSE

WHERE THEY SLEEP WHO MADE OUR PAST GLORIOUS

Cemeteries at the rear of the court-house, "Cricket Corner," Chestnut Hill, and Meadow-view.

SOLDIERS' MONUMENT AT TOP ERECTED IN 1871

"SQUIRE" ATHERTON'S LAW OFFICE

*From post-card*

HORACE GREELY BIRTHPLACE

Born February 3, 1811

OLD COURT-HOUSE ROAD

*Photographs in this program unless otherwise indicated are by C. E. White*

## *The Day's Observance.*

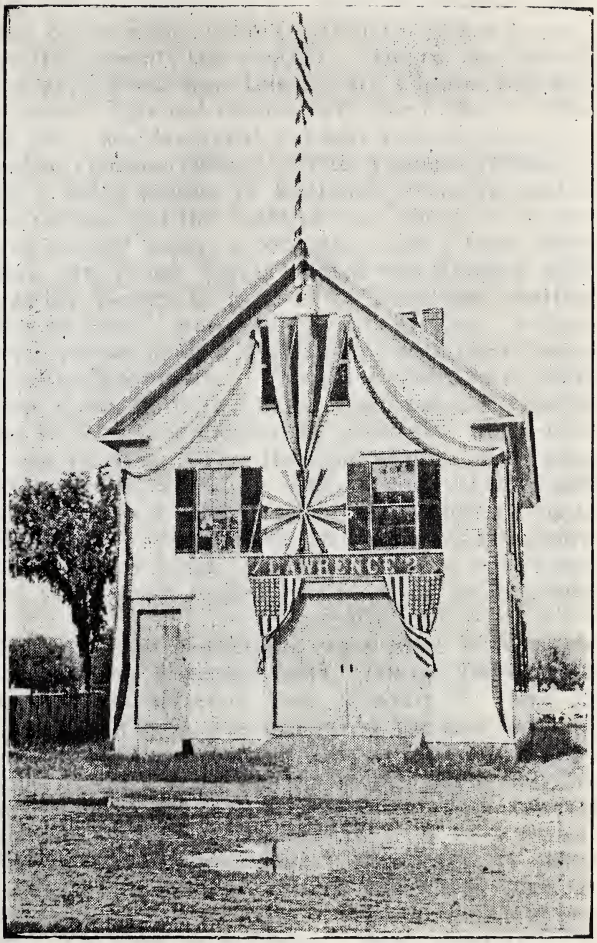
The seventeenth of June, 1910, will always be remembered in Amherst for two things, first as the day the town observed the 150th anniversary of its incorporation, and secondly as the day it poured all day.

No amount of rain, however, dampened the ardor or lessened the enthusiasm of her returning sons and daughters and notwithstanding that the rain fell steadily all day long, from far and near came throngs of former residents, until enough had gathered to occupy all the available space in the Congregational church, taxing its seating capacity to its limits and even extending into the street.

Just what would have happened had the day been a pleasant one is hard to tell for the stand upon the common would have accommodated but a small portion of those desirous of getting within hearing distance of the speakers of the day.

Amherst was in festal garb. Nearly every home was decorated with bunting, while the Stars and Stripes floated from many vantage points, making the otherwise pretty village appear in gala attire.

The rain which drizzled on Friday morning, and which before noon developed into a down-pour, could not spoil the elaborate outdoor decorations with which Amherst was prepared to welcome her visitors on the occasion of the 150th anniversary. Many of the buildings, both private and public, had been freshly painted, the lawns had been mown, and everything possible done to put the town in full gala attire. Laurel, flags and bunting in profusion draped all the public buildings, and most of the residences were decorated. On the front of the town hall festoons and garlands of laurel with white bunting were draped around the dates 1790-1910 with most charming effect. The school house had streamers, flags and bunting of red, white and blue. The front and sides of the engine house were draped with bunting, the flag was flying at the top of the mast wound with bunting and the fire apparatus was




HOME OF LAWRENCE ENGINE COMPANY

1771745



shined up for inspection. On the W. R. C. and G. A. R. hall, flags and bunting gave a holiday appearance, and on the postoffice building was a profusion of flags. The decoration of the private residences was most praiseworthy and a testimonial to the effort made by Amherst people to present a brave front despite the weather. Among the best of the dwelling decorations were those of Mr. Chilson and Mr. Barnes, who used flags and streamers to good effect. The old Cabinet office was decorated and bore several old signs, "The Boylston Printing Office," "The Amherst Herald," one bearing a faded picture of Benjamin Franklin, and a modern one saying that the building was ninety years the home of the weekly paper, a bookstore and a large publishing plant. Mr. Frank Taylor's house was trimmed with flags, as was Mr. George F. Hanson's. Flags and bunting on the Stewart place, and the Ogden, Murphy, Fuller and Bosworth houses made a striking row with their elaborate and artistic decorations. The Kent place bore a sign showing that it was built in 1785. The homes of George Walker and W. D. Clark showed the results of work with pennants and bunting. The Harrison Eaton place, now owned by Mr. Noyes, was hung with flags on all sides and on the Dr. Davis home Mrs. Spalding had an artistic sign, "Built 1757-1787." The Wilson, Dodge and Clark places and many others were hung with flags and it is safe to say that the old town never looked prettier in all its long history.

In addition to the decorations many signs were erected giving interesting historical facts. On the Davis place was one saying "Birthplace of Free Masonry." Here in 1797 the Benevolent lodge was organized, the first lodge in the southern part of the state, and the third in New Hampshire in point of age. Near the Town hall was a sign directing the reader to the Greely birthplace, and another showing the site of the first schoolhouse. It read as follows: "The old village schoolhouse. Here stood for many years the village schoolhouse, half of which was later removed to the old Lyndeboro road." On the hall was one which said, "The third court house. Built about 1825 by the town and given to the county in order that the courts might be retained here. Courts remained here until 1886, after over a century of residence in Amherst." The "Old Brick" bore a sign reading "Old Brick Exchange, built by Joseph Cushing about 1809 for a printing and publishing house but never so used. It has housed many industries, among them an extensive stove business." On the old bank building was a sign saying, "Old Bank Building. Built about 1807 and used by the Hillsboro Bank until its

failure in 1809, afterwards by the Farmers' Bank from 1825 to 1843. First bank west of the Merrimack."

On the McKean house was the sign, "The First Post Office, the first known site of a post office in Amherst, kept by Capt. Matthew Prior—1803 to 1808."

On the site of the old jail the sign read: "The old jail formerly stood here, erected in 1810, the successor to the old log jail built on the same spot in 1770. One of the stones with prisoner's ring attached is on the park."

On the Rhoads house a sign read: "Built in the days of King George the Third as early as 1772. Home of Joshua Atherton."

In "Upper Flanders" on the east side of the road was a sign which read as follows: "On a knoll only a few rods east of here stood the house of Daniel Wilkins, 1740-1783, afterwards used by Dr. Nathaniel Henchman."

Between the residence of Mrs. Parsons and George Hanson was a sign which read: "Lead Factory. Here at the rear a plant was maintained by Cyrus Eastman furnishing in part the pipe for the infant city of Manchester."

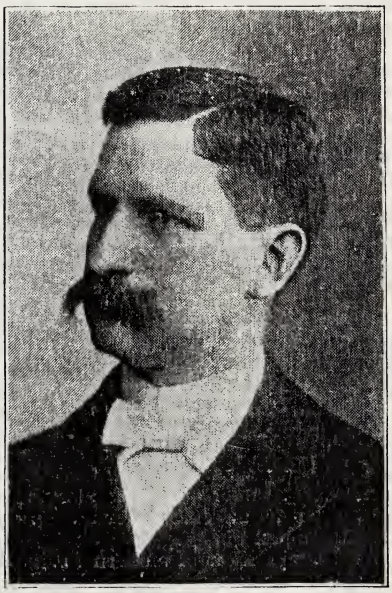
On the house of W. W. Sloan was a sign denoting it as the second court house, while at Chestnut Hill was a sign upon the school house denoting it as the site of the first Baptist church in Amherst.

At 9.30 o'clock, the hour appointed for the open air concert, the rain had sufficiently subsided to allow that part of the program to proceed, and at different points about the common were gathered groups of teams and upon the verandas of many houses were knots of interested listeners. Promptly at ten o'clock the exercises at the church began with a selection by the band stationed in the gallery. Representative Horace T. Harvell then introduced Dr. George H. Wilkins of Newtonville, Mass., who acted as president of the day. Prayer was offered by the chaplain of the day, Rev. Charles Ernest White.

## *Address of Dr. George H. Wilkins.*

A century and a half ago Governor Wentworth granted the charter creating the town of Amherst.

One hundred and fifty years have come and gone with all their swift vicissitudes of birth and death, of achievement and disappoint-



DR. GEORGE H. WILKINS.

ment, of joy and sorrow; and we could not, if we would, turn back the dial. Many centuries ago the old Persian seer and poet penned these lines:

"The moving finger writes, and having writ,
Moves on: nor all your piety nor wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a line,
Nor all your tears wash out a word of it."

And so the record of these years has passed into history.

A century and a half is not a long period of time in the development of this world of ours.

But, when we consider what has been accomplished in this period, we stand in awe as we realize that no previous era, even from the dawn of civilization, has ever witnessed such marvelous development in material things.

In our daily living we have much of the same environment ; but our horizon—how it has broadened ; and the conditions of living how they have changed almost beyond expression.

When our fathers migrated from their former homes to this they came with their lumbering oxen and their horses just as their progenitors had travelled from place to place for thousands of years before. But today we come from far and near drawn by the iron horse : or we come in the motor car ; or we come perchance like the winged bird borne on the wings of the wind.

When our fathers wished to communicate with their friends no farther away than Salem, days must elapse ere they could send a message and receive a reply. But today if the fast mail is too slow we utilize the wire and are instantly put in touch with our friends in the uttermost parts of the earth ; or if they be beyond the reach of wire we assail the all pervading ether and command it to bear our tidings.

Not less wonderful is the way we have utilized the forces of nature. We liberate the latent energies of the coal mine, we tap the subterranean reservoirs of petroleum and gas. We harness the turbulent waterfall and transmit its energy hundreds of miles to the workshop and factory. By machinery most ingenious in its conception and construction these various forms of energy are made to minister to every material want of man.

In the application of these forces great cities have sprung up in place of the old towns and villages. A polyglot population has displaced the old New England stock. Walking the streets of our great and thriving towns one feels as if he were in a foreign land so great is the babel of voices.

From this turmoil of constant change one comes back to the "old home" with great satisfaction. We come here today and breathe the same pure air, we gaze upon the same beautiful hills, and we wander beside the same babbling brooks that our fathers loved and christened a century and a half ago. And it affords us infinite delight that the dear old town still retains its individuality.

Amherst Plain is different from any other "common." The old church is different from any other. Thank God its spire still points heavenward ! And although its crowning glory, the gilded rooster, might not now be chosen as an emblem of the spiritual life, yet we would not have it dethroned.

Into the strenuous competition of modern business life the town has never entered but it has maintained a quiet dignity which gives it a character all its own. It has stood for the best things intellectually and spiritually. Its churches, schools and library have been potent factors in the upbuilding of character, in fostering a love of home and country, in perpetuating a reverence for God and His sanctuary. We love the old town for the hallowed associations of the past. We salute her with hope and anticipation for the future.

He then introduced Col. William B. Rotch, as the historian of the occasion, a man whose ancestry in the town dated a hundred and more years back, and whose interest in the town has been a factor for decades.

## *Historical Address by W. B. Rotch.*

Fifty years ago, when Amherst observed with fitting exercises the one hundredth anniversary of its incorporation, among the speakers was Hon. John H. Wilkins of Boston. He began his address by saying: "The history of Amherst appears to be remarkably void of interesting incidents. No Indian wars have occurred in its territory, no massacres saturated its soil with blood — both before and after its incorporation the ordinary course of events seem to have flowed on with scarcely a ripple to vex its quiet surface. The pursuit of peaceful and homely industry seems to have characterized the mass of the people and the bread which has served for their nourishment has been earned by the sweat of the brow. In a field so little bounding in incidents, I have found it no easy task to select a topic which could profitably engage your attention, even for the brief time appropriated for a frugal entertainment."

That the committee of arrangements who drafted the program for that day took the same view as Mr. Wilkins is evidenced from their having selected no historian for the occasion and no historical address was prepared for the one hundredth anniversary of the town.

This apparent omission is easily accounted for. Fifty years ago the good people of Amherst were *making* history. The events following the Revolution (in which many then living had taken part) was hardly history; it was current events, and the people who were then living here were so familiar with Amherst and the part Amherst and its people had taken in Revolutionary times, as well as the days that followed the incorporation of the town, that a rehearsing of them seemed doubtless unnecessary.

We can only estimate the future by reviewing the past and can safely assume that the events of these days will be of equal interest to the citizens interested in Amherst history fifty or one hundred years hence.

It is not easy to realize that two hundred years ago the pleasant fields and hillsides of this town were but one dense forest, through which roamed a race of men thoroughly distinct from our own. But so it was. Of these red men but little can be said. The first settlers had rather to contend with than to study them; to shun rather than to court their acquaintance. A howling wilderness it was, where no white man dwelt. The hideous yells of wolves, the shriek of owls, the gobbling of turkeys and the barking of foxes was all the music the first settlers heard; all a dreary waste and exposed to a thousand difficulties. Against the monarchs of the forests the early settlers waged a war of extermination. Huge piles of logs were burned and the ashes manufactured into potash and sold.

As long as fifty years after the first settlers came wolves were

so plenty that men and boys turned out in a body to hunt them, and finally succeeded in driving them into a small swamp, where hundreds were killed after being surrounded.

The tribe of the Penuacooks occupied the banks along the Merrimack River, Concord and Amoskeag being their chief places of resort. Below these were the Nattacooks in the vicinity of the mouths of the Nashua and Souhegan rivers. They were confederated with the Pawtuckets and their Great Sachem was Passaconaway. They had planting ground and fishing grounds all along the Merrimack and its tributaries and upon the small lakes of the vicinity. Relics of these Indians have often been found along the banks of the rivers and upon the shores of Babboosic Lake and upon the highlands at the west of the town. There are traditions extant of engagements between the Indians and the early settlers, but they lack substantiation.

That the red men gave the early settlers much trouble and alarm is evdenced from the fact that several garrison or block houses were provided, into which the settlers gathered at night for safety. These have all passed away, although the location of some are well known. It is also reasonably certain that the first settlers carried their firearms to church, lest they should be surprised while unprotected.

In 1686 these tribes disposed of all their lands to Jonathan Tyng and others, for which they considered a fair and just compensation, and nearly all removed from this neighborhood.

As we recall the oft-repeated story of injustice done the red men, it is a fact of much interest, that needs no verification, that the territory we occupy as a town was mostly, if not wholly, honorably purchased, which is more valuable from a moral point than the grant any English prince could convey. It is also pleasant to recall that possibly Elliott, the great apostle to the Indians, may have stood upon the banks of our river and upon the shore of our beautiful lake and dispensed the Word of Life to a people almost utterly extinct.

The close of the French war in 1760 filled the hearts of the people with joy, for they saw ahead of them a period of peace and prosperity. The apprehensions from the French and Indians were much greater on the frontier than on the towns bordering the seacoast. Hence the joy of the frontier settlements. Greater attention was paid to agriculture; manufactures in many places received new impetus; commerce again revived and new settlements were multiplied. In this and the following year twenty-three townships were incorporated in New Hampshire and among these was Amherst. The charter of the town was signed by Benning Wentworth, governor of the province of New Hampshire, the 19th of January, 1760.

The first meeting under the charter was called by Col. John Goffe of Bedford, and without a contrary vote being cast, Col. John Goffe was chosen moderator of the first town meeting and Solomon Hutchinson was chosen town clerk, and the charter accepted.

The following town officers were elected (in this connection the retention of the family names through the successive generations to the present time is interesting): Solomon Hutchinson, William Bradford, Reuben Mussey, Joseph Gould and Thomas Clark were elected selectmen; Ebenezer Weston and Joseph Abbott, constables; David Hartshorn and Nathan Ken-

COL. WILLIAM BOYLSTON ROTCH

HISTORIAN OF THE DAY

dall, tythingmen; Benjamin Taylor, William Lancey, assessors; Thomas Wakefield as clerk of the market; Nathan Fuller, Ebenezer Weston, Jr., James Seeton, James Rollins, as field drivers; Joseph Steele, Joseph Prince, William Lancey, deer keepers; James Seetown, Ephraim Abbott, Samuel Starrett, William Lancy, Andrew Bradford, surveyors of highways; John Shepard, surveyor of lumber.

How many of the descendants of these men have held town offices since? The town records will show a very frequent recurrence of the same family names.

Several of these offices are unknown to the people of the present day. Tythingmen were officers annually elected by the town to preserve good order in the church during divine service and to make complaints against any persons who were there found disorderly. Deer keepers were officers whose duties were to see that the laws of the province for the preservation of deer were duly observed and executed. The right to hold a market or fair on certain days of the week and year was included, although not specified in the town charter. We can find no record that such fairs as were privileged were held, although Thomas Wakefield was annually elected "clerk of the market" until 1774.

A first consideration in the establishment of a town privilege was to provide for the preaching of the gospel. Amherst people assumed their responsibility at once and the early ecclesiastical and municipal history of this locality so commingle as to render it most convenient and pleasant to give them in their connection.

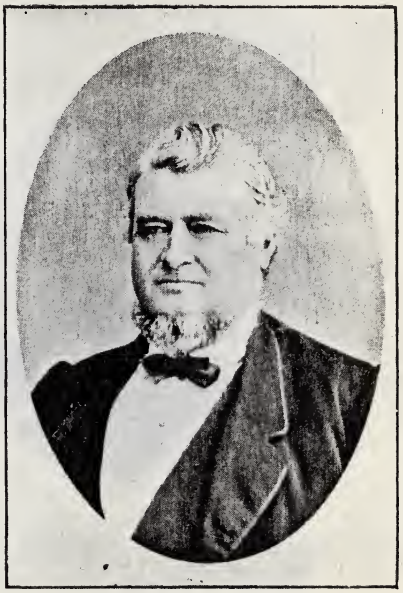
Previous to the incorporation of the town the Rev. Daniel Wilkins had been established as pastor of the church for a period of more than ten years. April 2, 1760, a town meeting was called, to see if the town would make choice of the Rev. Daniel Wilkins as town pastor and see if they would vote to settle him as pastor, the salary to be based upon the price of corn and pork, corn to be two shillings a bushel and pork at two pence a pound, sterling money of Great Britain. This meeting, the first town meeting after the incorporation and acceptance of the charter, was warned by a constable going from house to house. At this meeting Joseph Gould was moderator, and it was voted to give Rev. Daniel Wilkins forty-seven pounds and ten shillings, sterling money, based upon the current price of corn and pork, so long as he shall remain a pastor of the church. The provision regulating the amount of salary according to the fluctuations of the price of corn and pork occasioned Pastor Wilkins so much annoyance that at a subsequent meeting of the town that part of the vote was rescinded.

At this time, the time of the incorporation of the town, Amherst had a population of about eight hundred people. The number of dwelling houses was a little less than a hundred. It had a meeting house, although a crude affair, possessing little of the comforts that the present houses possess, yet it was better filled each Sunday than now. The early settlers of Amherst were a God-fearing people, and they were very loyal to their first pastor, the Rev. Daniel Wilkins.

The first meeting house was built by the proprietors of Souhegan West. The frame was probably raised May 16, 1739, twenty-one years before the incorporation of the town. The

building was not completed, however, until 1753. It was 45 x 22 feet and 22 feet posts. It stood at the junction of the roads, a short distance to the east of the Peter Jones residence in "Upper Flanders." It became town property and so continued until 1771, when the town having voted to built a new meeting house upon the training field, it was quit-claimed to the county and became the first county court house. It was afterwards removed to the site near the new meeting house and was burned by an incendiary in 1788.

In 1771 the town voted to build a new place of worship upon the training field. It was carried into effect and an enthusiastic people, made more so by eight barrels of New England rum, pro-

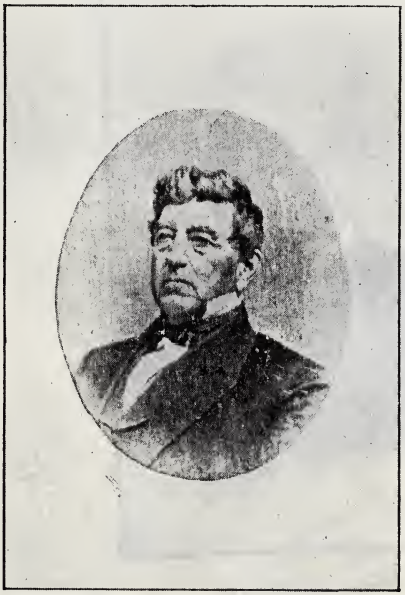


PETER W. JONES

vided for the occasion, raised the massive timbers which constitute the framework of the present Congregational Church, the heavy oaks of which they were framed growing in the immediate vicinity. It stood a few rods southeast of its present location, with the steeple at the west end, a porch at the east end, the pulpit upon the north side, singing gallery upon the north side over the main entrance, men's gallery on the west and women's on the east and high above the pulpit was a massive sounding board. Running south from each entrance was a paved walk of some twenty feet and near its termination stood a rock for the purpose of mounting. Nearly everyone came to church at that time upon horseback. It remained town property

until 1832, when, because of denominational strife for its occupancy, it was sold at public auction and purchased by the Congregational Society. The town reserved the right to its use for town purposes and also reserved the clock bell and steeple. In 1836 it was removed to its present site, refitted with a new basement for a town hall and vestry. The June session of the Legislature in 1794 met in this meeting house, and Governor Gilmore here took the oath of office for the first time. An ample provision seems to have been made for the members, for no less than twenty-two taverners' licenses were granted by the selectmen that year.

The present Baptist meeting house was built by the Unitari-



PERLEY DODGE, ESQ.

ans and Universalists, raised June 9, 1835, without accident and without rum. In 1844 it passed into the hands of the Baptist denomination.

The churches contained little of the comforts of modern churches. The pews were large box affairs, with high backs. There were no heating arrangements and in winter those attending church often brought boxes of hot coals with them.

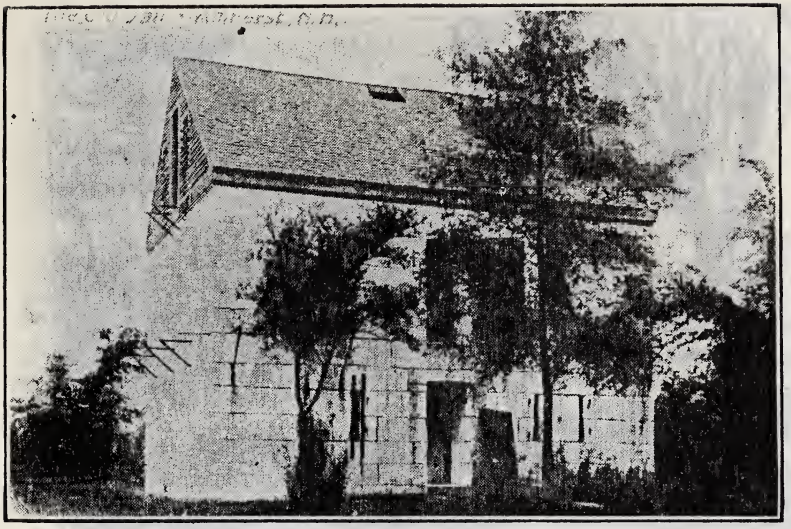
In the town warrant of 1767, a special meeting of the town was called for the purpose to see if the town would vote the whole of the front gallery in the meeting house for the men to sit in and see if the town would appoint a seat for the chorister to sit in order to improve psalmady and religious singing. We do

not find that they voted this distinction. We do find recorded a request to the town that men might be accorded the privilege of sitting upon the beams of the church and also upon the benches placed in the aisles, which indicates that the churches were overcrowded in those days.

In 1768 the New Hampshire Assembly consisted of thirty-one members, representing about thirty towns. Some of the new towns were unrepresented. The province contained about sixty settled ministers, eight attorneys-at-law, eight justices of the peace, and ten regiments of militia. Down to this period all the judicial courts had been held and the public offices kept at

HARRISON EATON

Portsmouth. The labor and expense of resorting thither bore hard on the people of the central and western towns and had long been a matter of complaint in the western and northern sections of the province. The rapid increase of population in the western and northern sections of the province called loudly for redress of grievance. After many delays and difficulties, the Assembly passed an act dividing the territory into five counties and establishing the necessary courts. Four of the counties, Rockingham, Strafford, Hillsborough and Grafton, were thus named by Governor Wentworth after English noblemen to whom he was attached; Cheshire after the county of that name in England. Then, as now, great importance was attached to the privilege of the shire of the county and in the struggle for that of Hillsborough County Amherst came off the winner—



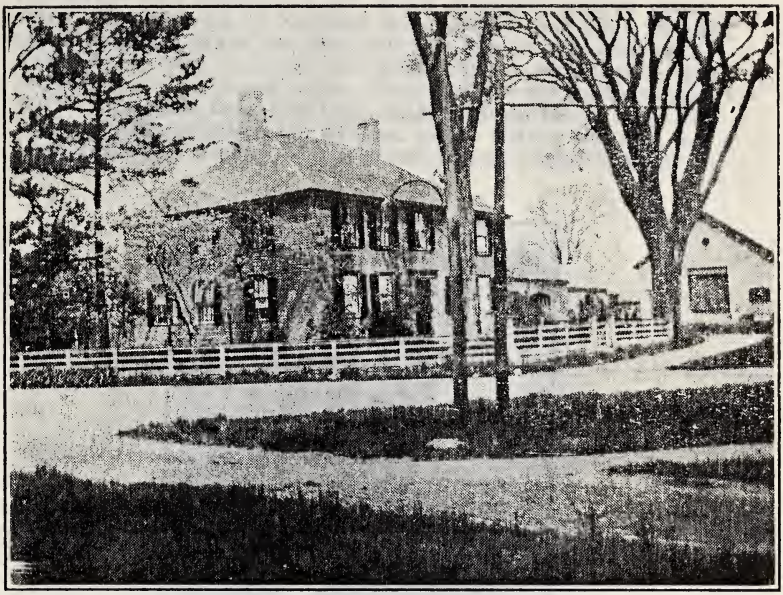
THE OLD JAIL.

an event which added more to the importance and popularity of the town than any event that preceded it. The act of the Assembly, having to receive the approval of the king, did not go into effect until 1771. The principal offices of the county were afterwards kept at Amherst and six sessions of the court during the year gave it an importance not before known.

Here was the first public administration of justice in the county. Before this every cause, even from the remotest part of the province, was carried to Portsmouth, where the public offices were filled principally by the friends of the governor or personally related to him. Frequent complaints were made of partiality in the administration of law. Parties were sometimes heard out of court and the practice of "watering the jury" was familiar with all who had business in the law.

In addition to easing the people of their burdens, this division of the province into counties was productive of other important advantages. Men of energy, talent and means moved into the shire towns and other towns eligibly situated, and thus enterprise, business and wealth became diffused throughout the province instead of concentrating at the capital and becoming attached to the trappings of the royal governor. The power of the governor over the people was also largely impaired. These counties became so many little republics, each with its capital at its shire, where the people could meet, and when they were often brought together by their court and other occasions for convocation, giving them ample opportunity to learn each others' views and feelings and to be influenced by each others' principles and wishes.

The people of the different sections of the state being of dis-



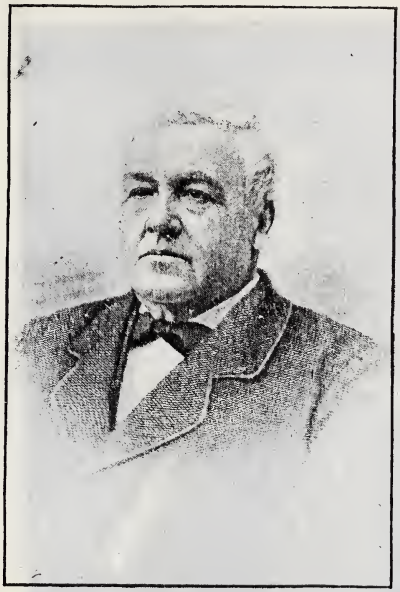
RESIDENCE OF SAMUEL DANA, DR. MATTHIAS SPALDING AND REV. JOSIAH G. DAVIS

similar origin and quite different in their habits of thinking and action, this commingling which resulted from division of counties was happy and opportune, as paving the way for more harmonious and united action of the people in the great trials and struggles which awaited them in the Revolution, "the times which tried the souls of the friends of liberty and revealed the hearts of those who were not loyal to the cause of freedom."

Hitherto, Amherst, although possessing some of the most gifted men in the Province had been classed in its representation in its general Assembly. Many of the larger towns were then wholly unrepresented. No uniform system of representation had been adopted. None could be established by law, because it was claimed by the governor as part of the royal prerogative to call representation from new towns.

It is regretted that there remains to us so imperfect a record of the revolutionary history of this locality, but enough is known to forever establish the character of our ancestors for patriotism, courage and self denial. It appears from authentic documents that prior to the first of April, 1777, one hundred and twenty persons from this place were engaged in the war, among whom were two colonels, one major, five captains and nine subaltern officers. This was a larger number than was furnished by any other town in the state. It needs scarcely be added that the inhabitants encountered a full share of the hardships and difficul-

ties which were endured by the people generally in New Hampshire. The citizens of Amherst were ardent and alive in the popular cause. When the first gun was heard at Lexington, an Amherst company instantly mustered under Josiah Crosby and proceeded to the scene of action, reaching there the following day. Within two years from this time, with a population of but 1,428, Amherst had furnished 120 fighting men. Within the first four years from the opening of the grand drama, more than one in



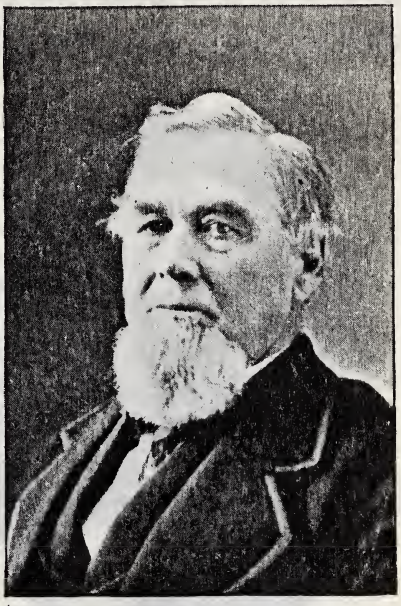
CHARLES H. CAMPBELL

seventy of the inhabitants, being twenty-two of its citizens, had either been killed in battle or died in service. And in this way she went on during that seven years' contest. During its continuance the selectmen paid out from the treasury nearly $18,000 to our own soldiers. The brave Crosby with his company fought and died at Bunker Hill. Nichols commanded a regiment at Bennington and there Bradford led his company and rendered signal service upon that memorable field. That Amherst did her duty nobly throughout all this eventful struggle that resulted in American independence is fully attested by the records. Bunker Hill, Charlestown Neck, Bennington, Fort Cedar and other battle grounds were enriched and are still fragrant with the life blood of her noble sons. Three hundred and twenty-one men were upon her enrollment, which was over fifty per cent. of the male inhabitants of the town.

So long as adherance was a virtue, no people were truer and

firmer than those who preceded us, but when submission was no longer a virtue, and duty called them to throw off the oppressive, galling yoke of tyranny, and to stand up boldly for their rights, none were more firm, patriotic and self denying. All honor to the brave men, and their equally brave and self-denying consorts, who secured the high and distinguished privileges which they have bequeathed to us.

The conditions under which the early inhabitants of Amherst



CHARLES RICHARDSON

lived, one hundred and fifty years ago, at the time of the incorporation of the town, concern us today as we gather here to commemorate this anniversary.

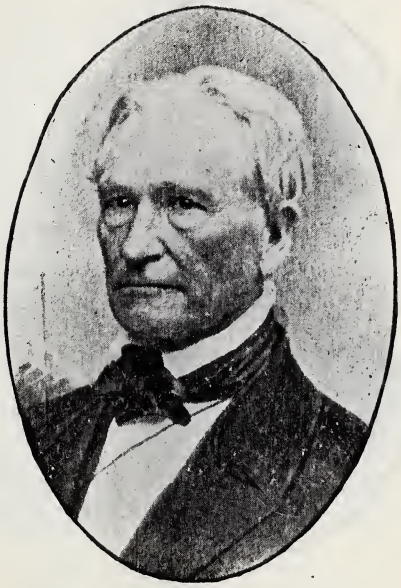
The town was fortunate in the selections of its first minister, the Rev. Daniel Wilkins. He was a man of strong character, a patriot and a gentleman. He was a wise counsellor and his spirit was a vital force in the community. The people of his parish looked to him not only for spiritual guidance, but for help and assistance in their business dealings. He was the arbiter of the grievances of all the people in his parish.

The early struggles of the people were like those endured by all of the old settlements around us. The hardships of those days can hardly be appreciated now. It required strong arms and stout hearts to extract from the soil the sustenance of life and there were little of the comforts of life as we know them now,

and yet the days had their compensations. There was more of the spirit of brotherly love than now. There was more real neighborly feeling. They took great interest in each other and when trouble or disease entered a family all would cheerfully help, one family supplying a portion of corn, another fuel, another rum and so many a hard winter season was relieved of its fearsome results in a mutual sharing of the general supplies. They were without their men's club, and their women's club, about the only club they were familiar with was Indian war club.

The first houses of which record is known in Amherst were built of logs. Log houses offered better protection than any other kind.

The first settlers were named Lamson and Walton and they



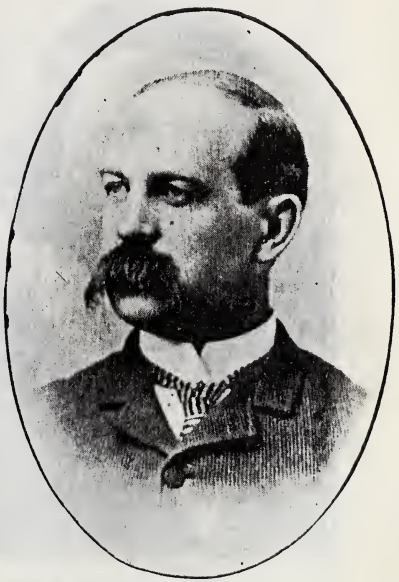
RICHARD BOYLSTON

came here from the Massachusetts Colony, and built a house near where the house now is of the late Bryant Melendy. It is said, but we doubt if it can be authenticated, that the first frame house built in Amherst, was the Rhoades house, built, perhaps, upon the same spot as one of the first log houses. It was about 1775 when frame houses first became common.

An employment of the early settlers was the "boxing of pine trees" to get turpentine, which they transported to the Merrimack river and carried to Boston, where it was sold and shipped to England. It was a large source of revenue to the early settlers. The cutting of pine trees was forbidden except by order of the

governor of the Province, pine trees being reserved for the use of the Royal Navy. This restriction incited much opposition to the Royal government and helped to incite the people toward a feeling of injustice. The "boxing of trees" did not injure to tree and was not objected to.

Game and fish contributed much toward the support of the early settlers. The Souhegan River, at times it is recorded, was alive with shad, salmon, alewives and lamper eels. As late as 1821, an article was inserted in the town warrant to see if the town would prohibit the boys setting eel pots in the brooks as eels were then becoming scarce as a commercial food. The woods were full of game, wild pigeons were very plenty, wild turkey, deer and all kinds of smaller game abounded. The catching of pigeons for



ALBERT A. ROTCH

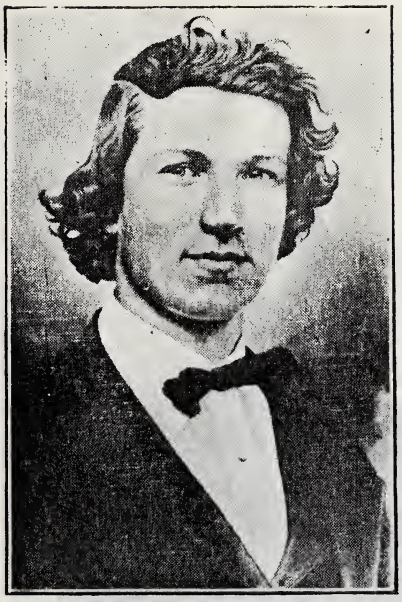
the market was a large source of revenue. Many now living can remember the pigeon stands, which resembled a tennis court, over which nets were thrown and the birds caught by the hundreds, till they became almost extinct.

There was no such thing as a cook stove in town. This was so even in the memory of living people. The advent of the first cook stove was a great event and regarded as an invention of enormous value, as indeed it was.

Sheep raising was a source of much revenue and a large number of sheep were kept by almost every farmer. Hop fields were in abundance and profitable. There was a carding mill at Wilton where the wool was carded and fitted for the spinning wheels

found in every household and the winters were spent by many a thrifty housewife in spinning and mending and making articles for the family use.

The shoemaker and the tailor went from house to house doing the work of the family. Who cut and made the clothing of the good people of Amherst before the last century, is and probably will ever remain unknown. Garments in those days were mainly home made and lasted a lifetime. No great attention was paid to dress either by the men or the women. We have records, however, of some exceptions. Soon after the establishment of the Third Parish a lady and gentleman were married, and it is doubt-



SERGT. CHARLES H. PHELPS
"A young man but an old soldier."

ful if another suit of clothes of any bridegroom since has cost as much as his.

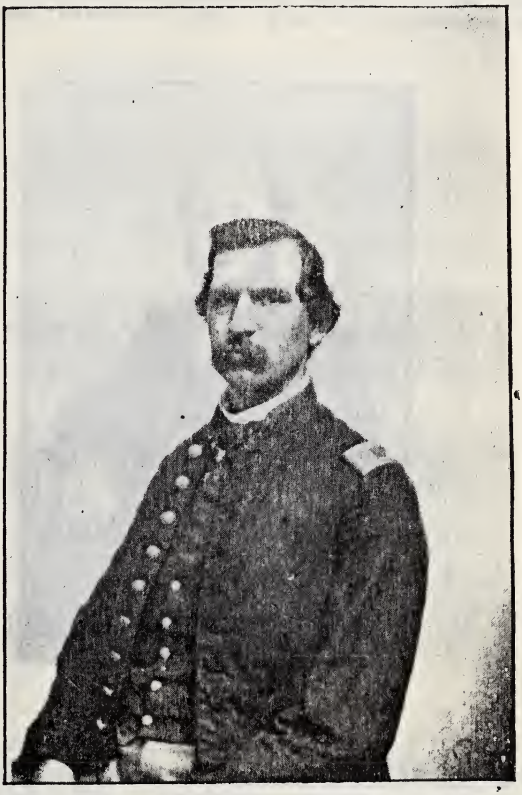
We are also astonished at the specimens of needlework that are now and then brought forth, almost sacred, from family archives.

At the time of the incorporation of Amherst there was a population of eight hundred people, living in one hundred dwelling houses, or an average of eight people to a family. They had fewer comforts but more children.

The only instruction enjoyed by the inhabitants of the town previous to its incorporation was from private instructors. Little attention was paid to other than private instruction, till after the close of the war. In 1781, we find recorded a vote of the town appropriating 10,000 pounds for the support of schools, the town

being divided into "squadrons." Ten thousand pounds represented $50,000, but in the depreciated money of the Province was only about $300.

How near Amherst came to being an educational centre may be judged from the spirit of a vote in 1791, when a charter was granted for the establishment of the Aurean Academy. The institution soon went into operation. The enterprise was short lived and closed its existence for want of financial support.



COL. C. E. HAPGOOD

Rapid progress in educational matters dated from 1800 and in 1817 there were about 500 attending the public schools in the town, nearly thirty per cent. of its population.

At the opening of the century, Amherst, in whatever light it is regarded, was emphatically the "Hub of Hillsborough County." It was the busy place of all towns in the interior of the state. It was more important than Concord, and of larger mercantile business than of any other town of the state, saving perhaps

Portsmouth and Exeter. Located at the terminus of the Second New Hampshire Turnpike, it was the most important business point between Windsor, Vermont, and the sea shore, and its traders did a thriving business, not only with the other towns of the county, but with the farmers from the north and from Vermont, many of whom exchanged their produce for their groceries and other needed family and farm supplies. It contained five stores, the most prominent of which was the "Old Read Store." Located near where the Soldiers' monument now stands. Two other prominent stores, both afterwards burned, were the "Means Store" and the "Lawrence Store." The only newspaper in the

J. F. WHITING

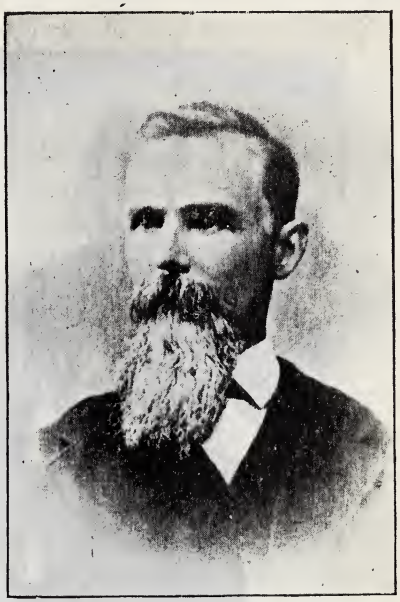
county, "*The Farmers' Cabinet*," was also published here, having been established in 1798 as the "*Village Messenger*" and being one of only three papers published in the state.

In 1820 Amherst village contained a meeting-house, court house, jail, school-house, two taverns, card factory, three law offices, and fifty-eight dwelling houses, and for four score years it maintained its reputation as one of the busiest of towns.

In some respects Amherst has improved, for today it contains one hundred and twenty dwelling houses, hardly one vacant and none in other than a creditable condition.

A look into the Read store would have revealed an odd sight in contrast as stores are conducted today. It was without counters or counting room and yet supplied almost every known want of

man, at that time, including rum and molasses in abundance. Every store in Amherst, and in fact in the county, and many private houses, made a business of selling rum. During the sessions of the court as many as twenty permits were issued for rum selling to private property owners in Amherst. So common was the drinking habit that records are left of school children saving their pennies and buying a portion of rum to bring to school, at the close of the session with which to celebrate the day, and teacher and all liberally partook. A notable occasion demonstrating the excess of drinking is recorded, when Representative



ISAAC B. DODGE

Smith, returning from the General Assembly, the court, then in session, adjourned and the judge, the justices and all present became gloriously, or ingloriously drunk. It was not till after three decades had passed that the temperance wave resulted in a change of this habit of rum drinking among the people of Amherst and the province in general.

## COURTS.

A most interesting chapter in the history of Amherst, has been its connection with the courts of the county. Up to the year 1844 it was the only shire town and six sessions of the court were held here annually. The first court was held in a private house, said to be the same house as that now occupied by W. W. Sloan as a

dwelling house; this was in 1771. The judge sitting at this court was Matthew Thornton, chief justice. The names of attorneys appearing upon that first docket were Ebenezer Champney, New Ipswich; Joshua Atherton, Amherst; N. P. Sargent, Haverhill; John Prentice, Londonderry; Samuel Livermore and John Sullivan, Durham; Mr. Lowell, of Boston; and Wiseman Claggett, of Litchfield. Mr. Atherton and Mr. Champney were the only attorneys then living in the county.

That same year, the town having completed a new house of worship, voted to give to the county the old meeting house, which was located near the Jones residence, for use as a court house. One provision, however, was incorporated in this deed of gift,

WILLIAM FEW

which did not fully meet the desires of the justices of the county, — it was that the county should erect a jail within one hundred and fifty feet of the court house, or old meeting house. The county so far accepted the gift as to occupy the house for court purposes, but did not immediately comply with conditions in erecting a jail.

In 1785 the court of general sessions finding the old building inconvenient, and the business of the town having centered around the new house of worship on the training field, proposed to build a new court house and suggested to the town that more would be expected from it than from other towns in the county. This the town declined to furnish and twice voted not to assist in larger

share than was required of it by law. In 1787 the old building given by the town was taken down and removed to the common and put up again a few rods westerly of the new meeting house, where it was burned almost before it was completed.

The town then realizing the necessity of doing something immediately for the courts called a special town meeting and voted eight pounds towards building the court house, and chose John Patterson, Capt. Josiah Crosby, Samuel Dana, Daniel Campbell and James Ray to plan and place the same. This building was located directly in front of the spot where the Russell house now stands. It was used as a court house until the completion of the present town house, when it was sold to the Congregational

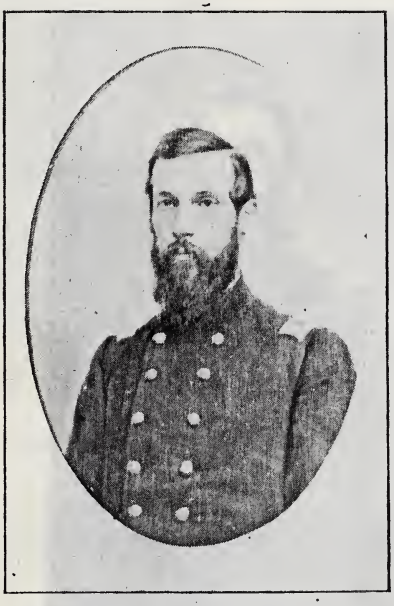
JAMES B. DAVID

Society for a vestry and removed to its present site. In this old court house some of the first men of the state and the nation commenced their career of renown and usefulness. It is worthy of record as a relic of former generations redolent with the memory of the wisdom of such men as Timothy Farrah, William H. Richardson, Samuel Bell, Samuel Dana, Joshua Atherton, and the eloquence and learning of Ezekiel and Daniel Webster, Jeremiah Woodbury, James Wilson, David Everett, Clifton Claggett, C. H. Atherton, Luther Lawrence, Franklin Pierce, Charles G. Atherton and their contemporaries, of the Hillsboro County bar.

It was in this second court house building that Daniel Webster made his maiden speech before Judge Farrah. He had finished

his studies in the law office of Christopher Gore of Boston, and had been admitted to the Suffolk County bar. Judge Farrah, after listening to the young man, remarked: "that young men's statement is a most unanswerable argument," and at once granted the motion.

A noted trial in this court house was that of one Daniel Farmer of Goffstown and his subsequent execution by hanging attracted, perhaps, the largest concourse of people to Amherst that ever gathered here, estimated as high as ten thousand. The gallows was erected upon the spot now occupied by the house of the late B. B. David. The execution took place at two o'clock in the afternoon, of January 3, 1822. It was intensely cold that day. Farmer



WILLIAM G. DAVID, M. D.

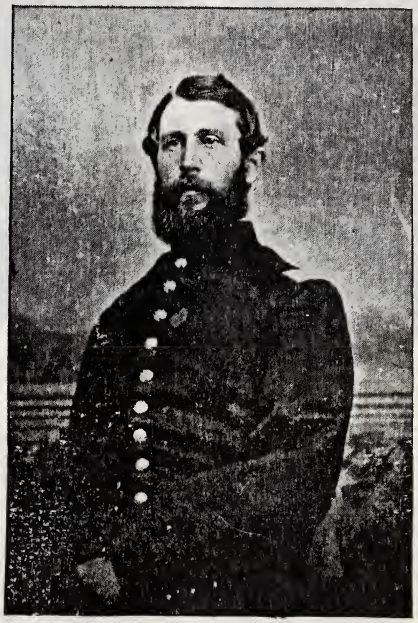
made a confession upon the gallows and attributed his crime to the use of liquor and admonished his hearers to refrain from its use. It was doubtless the most forceful temperance lecture ever delivered in the county and its effects upon the then common drinking habit was said to have been very great.

In 1785 Amherst voted its unwillingness to divide the courts with the town of Concord which had petitioned to be annexed to the County of Hillsborough. Hopkinton afterwards received a portion of the courts held in Amherst and became a shire town and so continued until the formation of Merrimack County in 1823.

Amherst had three court houses; the last and present court house building was built about the year 1824, and it has had also

an equal number of jails. The last jail was not used after the construction of the new jail at Manchester, which was for a long time known as "The Palace for Criminals."

The gathering of the judicial heads of the county in Amherst at the various sessions of the courts were events more or less surrounded with interest. As we remember them they were full of color and form a picturesque chapter in the town's history. As a boy I remember with what expectancy we looked forward to the May session, when the town would be full of strangers. When we boys would gather about the court house and watch with frightened interest the unloading of the criminals brought here for trial from Manchester. How we would line up at the court house



WILLIAM D. STEARNS

and ask for the privilege of driving a stranger's horse to the stable, being fully compensated in the privilege of the ride and perhaps getting an additional dime for our own use. I wonder how many within the hearing of my voice remember the song the church bell used to sing, that summoned the court into session each morning, when the bell ringer went into the church belfry and taking the tongue of the bell made it say:

Lawyer, lawyer, come to court,
Take a piece of bread and pork;
If the pork is not done
Take a piece of bread and run.

COURT HOUSE ROAD

This is not so much history, however, as reminiscence, and this is my friend Fletcher's prerogative today.

Amherst's part in the suppression of the Rebellion, in that memorable struggle from 1861 to 1865, is one that makes the heart of every lover of the old town swell with honest pride. Amherst was quick to respond to the call of the country for defenders of her cherished liberties. It is with grateful hearts we cherish the memory of the brave deeds of those noble benefactors. A faithful historian has forever preserved the record of Amherst's part in those stirring yet sorrowful scenes.

The first call of the president for troops was responded to by volunteers, Sawtelle, George, Burdick, Moore, Peabody, Champney, Hall, David, Ober, Chickering, Russell, Hartshorn and Griswold and Phelps.

Nearly all of these volunteers reënlisted for the full term of three years.

It was not alone those who went to the front upon whom the sorrows of war bore heavily. The widow and the orphan, the mother and the father of some beloved son bore equally, perhaps more heavily, the hardships that war entailed.

The cost of the war to this town was large but was cheerfully borne by her loyal and patriotic citizens. The aggregate expense was nearly $50,000. It is none the less to the credit of the citizens, that a large share of this expense was returned afterwards

TREE AND STONE GROWN TOGETHER IN THE OLD BURIAL GROUND

by a grateful country, for such was not expected during the dark days of its continuance.

The names of the martyred dead are readily recalled, and the names of Few, Phelps, Hapgood are but reminders of the many who sacrificed their all for the defence of the liberties of a nation.

Less than fifty years ago Amherst had a body of men loyal to the state, to the county, the town and to themselves. They represented a type, not entirely extinct by any means, but appearing to grow less and less in number each year. Not alone is this true with respect to Amherst. It is so in many another community. Think for a moment of the men of less than five decades ago who were then active in Amherst's affairs. Beginning at the west of the village there was Francis Peabody, white haired and a constant church attendant; then came Harrison Eaton, a type of a successful business man, kindly, dignified and generous; Dr. J. G. Davis, scholarly and revered, a worthy shepherd of a loyal flock; Dr. William Clark, stern and severe in what he believed to be right; Deacon Boylston, active, kindly, generous in the extreme, ardent in his support of church and state; Charles Richardson, somewhat indolent, but a ready debater on political matters; Aaron Lawrence, aristocratic, erect, dignified and benevolent, and a friend to all and active in every good cause; Samuel B. Melendy, always industrious and desirous of serving the public; Perley Dodge, Esq., a town attorney and lawyer of the old school; B. B. David, always in his seat at church immaculately dressed, going down the decline of life, keeping his interest alive in all matters

of local importance; Hiram Stearns, a hard-working farmer; David Stewart, Doctor Aiken and Doctor Bartlett, all type of men not so common today. Driving in from Moderator Hill were William A. Mack, Daniel Secomb and Charles H. Campbell, Mr. Hubbard and Aaron Wilkins, a coterie of men whose wisdom at the town annual meeting was indispensable. From Christian Hill came Jotham Hartshorn and Deacon Elliott, men of sound judgment in business matters. These men were not all of the same political belief nor did they always think the same upon matters of public concern, but their combined wisdom was hard to dupli-

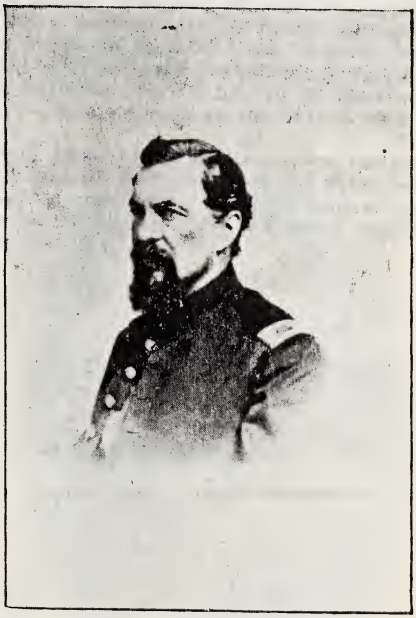
EDWIN BENDEN

cate and they made few mistakes where matters concerning the public good were involved.

The high tide of Amherst's commercial prosperity, as well as the date of its largest population, was from 1790 to 1800. At this time there were 2,369 inhabitants. In the census of 1810 the population had fallen off nearly a thousand. This is accounted for by the severing of the second and third parishes incorporated as the townships of Mont Vernon and Milford. The former in 1804 and the latter in 1798. Previous to these two dates Amherst also enjoyed its greatest building activity and the then palatial residences of Capt. Daniel Pryor, now the McKeen homestead, the Means house, the Dana house and the Atherton mansions were

built. It was in the latter house, now the summer home of Mrs. Spaulding of New York, that Benevolent Lodge of Masons, in the year 1797, was organized with Mr. Dana as its first Worshipful Master.

In 1800, Portsmouth, Rochester, Londonderry, Barrington and Gilmanton were the only towns of the state having a larger population than Amherst. Of the causes that contributed to Amherst's decline in the ratio of importance in the state and its inability to hold its own in the race for supremacy one man's opinion at this time is as good as another's. It did not lack in loyal and



J. BYRON FAY

brilliant men, for no town had more. The tide of emigration had set towards localities favored with water privileges. Richer farming land was sought and found. The railroads came and followed the course of the river, for upon the rivers were the larger centers. And so in the strife for the survival of the fittest Amherst was distanced and left by the wayside, not, however, to be absorbed by other and larger towns or to disappear like its neighbor, the town of Monson, entirely from the face of the earth, but to continue as a useful and helpful community, always retaining the respect of its more thrifty neighbors and sending forth to enrich other states some of the brightest and brainiest men that the country has known.

A town that has produced a writer like Greeley, who was almost elected president of the United States; John Farmer, the historian;

James Freeman Dana, a professor at Dartmouth; Dr. Samuel Dana, his brother, a noted scientist; Gen. Joseph Lowe, a military character of Revolutionary times, and later mayor of Concord; Col. Robert Means, treasurer of the county for many years; Isaac Spaulding and Joseph Reed, two business men, who if they had lived today would have been classed with the Rockefellers as masters of finance. A town that has furnished a United States senator, a member of Congress, furnished a president to Dartmouth College and a pastor of the Park Street Church can hardly be said to have existed in vain.

Three sentiments are said to appeal most to men — retrospect, realization and anticipation. We stand today upon the threshhold of the past and the future. The past with all its sacred memories is fragrant with hopes realized. Of the future we cannot speak; it is an unwritten book and we shall turn its leaves one by one. We sons and daughters of old Amherst believe, however, that good things are yet in store for the children of so good a people as have gone before us, and we look to the future with hope and confidence.

It has been a real pleasure for me to review the past in this incomplete address and the compensation has been great in the satisfaction of a better acquaintance with my native town and an increased love for her "dells and hills, her rocks and rills."

# *SENTIMENTAL REMINISCENCES.*

## Address by Gustavus G. Fletcher of Chattanooga, Tenn.

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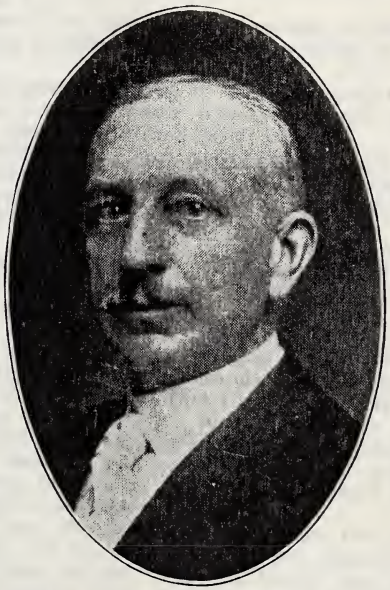
I am very glad that it has been possible for me to leave my home in Tennessee and come here to exchange greetings with, and bring you a simple message; indeed were it not simple, it would not be in keeping with the life and character of a man trained along other lines than for the public platform. I confess



GUSTAVUS G. FLETCHER

to some surprise in having received an invitation from your committee on celebration to deliver an address "In the Nature of Reminiscence."

For your comfort I will state that I shall deal with only one phase of the subject — sentimental reminiscence — which will, I hope, in some measure be agreeable to you. The historian has beautifully presented all that you ought to crave of historical facts.

Sentiment is a phase of human life which probably does not

receive the attention its importance demands. Persons without sentiment are entitled to sympathy; they are much like a tree bereft of its branches; the graceful lines are gone; it is shunned by the artist, the landscape gardener, and the forester; it is sought after only by the mercenary lumberman because he sees in it so many feet of lumber at a price.

We find ourselves today in the august presence of memory, whose existence measures the span from chaos to eternity; it is the basis of knowledge; an attribute of the Infinite and susceptible of cultivation by the finite.

It is a wonder the ancients did not deify it for worship; and that the Greeks did not attempt to chisel some semblance of it from marble of snowy whiteness into the "human form divine." When men have wrought ill, memory is covered with a pall of the darkest dye bordered with a fringe of the most soubre hue, and they devoutly wish memory were a blank. When men have wrought well, life is sweet, the step elastic, and there is only fragrance along the way.

Let the past come to us now as sweet scented as the rose, as pure as the lily, and as refreshing and health-giving as a typical morning in June.

It is indeed a very great privilege as well as a peculiar pleasure to be here on this occasion, where history, memory, and sentiment contribute to the pleasure and profit of all.

I am not unmindful of my own responsibility; and it causes me to be just a little fearful lest the committee of arrangements have too greatly honored me, in asking that I voice memories of departed days which are a heritage from the youth of us all. There is, however, encouragement in the fact, that I have never found anywhere a community more gracious and kindly disposed toward me than you have always been; I assure you your kindness has ever brought good cheer to my heart.

Many of us who celebrate today also celebrate the centennial anniversary of the incorporation of this grand old town. We, of that day who now celebrate, stand on an eminence, a half century higher than we stood then. From this vantage point of view we all observe that the leading spirits, and most of the others in middle life of the 1860 festal day have passed on. Since that time other brains have planned, and other palms have molded and shaped the happenings hereabout. We inquire of every inovation whence, and of every transition whither.

It is quite plain that this is a time and place for sentiment. This town is not only the place of our birth, but also of the early events in our lives, and we love it for its history and tradition. Sentiment pure and simple ought then to hold us at this moment in fond embrace.

The committee has wisely selected for this celebration a "sentimental" day indeed. In Charlestown with banners flying and bands playing, the populace are exultant because our patriotic ancestors freely gave up their lives on Bunker Hill in laying the foundation of this great nation. In contrast, but no less sentimental, is the fact that a cannon so diminutive that it would hardly serve the purpose of the lad of today to properly celebrate the deeds of American valor, is guarded with jealous care in the battlements on the north bank of the St. Lawrence near the once bloody Plains of Abraham. Visitors from the states in Quebec at this very hour observe how the breast of the English soldier

heaves with national pride as he points to the captured gun and says, "This is a token of remembrance of our victory at Bunker Hill!"

The glory of it is, we now hold the "hill" on which we celebrate, and the Englishman is welcome to his little token of remembrance.

Beside sentiment, we are willingly governed at this time by the direction in which all eyes are turned. In mountain climbing, it is restful and profitable to pause once in a while in the ascent and look backward; the tired muscles relax; the view charms; the height already gained, inspires courage for renewed effort in ascending higher. So it is in the activities of life; it is worth our while to occasionally pause, and cast our eyes in the only direction in which we can have an unobstructed view — backward.

We cannot look ahead with any certainty of a clear vision; we can guess, surmise, speculate, but you will notice the curtain remains down until about the time the play begins, and then comes a series of surprises and developments that keep you busy. Futile attempts to peer into the future are ever present. Just one illustration. The nations at large have recently joined our country in paying honor to the name and fame of Robert Fulton, who surprised and startled the world one day in his achievement of propelling a vessel by steam on the Hudson River.

Naturally much discussion ensued as to the future of steam navigation. A man of brilliant mind across the Atlantic, wrote a book giving proof in theory at least of how impossible it would be for a steam propelled vessel to cross the ocean. While he was busy writing the Americans were busy building a steamer. They crossed the Atlantic, and on the return voyage brought the wonderful book which undertook to prove that the thing which they had already accomplished could not be done.

Men who are yet in the youth of old age well remember what a crazy thing it was thought to be, to attempt to build a steamer that would speed from England to America in six days! Now observe the record of the Mauretania and her sister ships. This is the spectacle — a dream of the public mind in our boyhood becomes a two-fold realization in our manhood. We know little of the tomorrows; we are only certain of the yesterdays. We surely will be considered sane, and I trust safe in our conclusions, if we engage ourselves today in the pastime of looking backward.

Our attention is frequently called to the fact that we do not fully appreciate the advantage of retrospect. In commending the placing of a tablet in the public library at Mont Vernon, to the memory of a man to whom this section is greatly indebted — the late Hon. George A. Marden — the *Milford Cabinet* in an editorial, November 4, 1909, made use of these significant words: "Americans are not enough given to retrospect or remembrance of persons or things gone by, and do not look back for admiration, example or pleasure upon the works or personalities of people of the past."

Yet again, fifty years ago in dismissing an audience here gathered to celebrate the centennial of the birth of Amherst township, the Hon. Charles H. Campbell, president, said: "We adjourn to meet May 30th, 1960." I am sure it is a hopeful sign that you have felt impelled to not wait the century out before again meeting to give yourselves over "to retrospect and remembrance of persons and things gone by." Agreeably with your wise decision, let us gently touch the hidden springs of memory, and fondly contemplate what is brought forth.

First of all then this is the place where we were born, and we rejoice thereat. If there is a spot on the habitable globe more dear to the heart than another, it is the place of one's birth. No memories cling to us with such tenacity as do those of childhood and youth; when the activities of middle life are forgotten, those of the youthful days, fountain like, gush forth; we are always in sympathy with the lines of Woodworth, the Massachusetts farmer boy, written in his loneliness in New York City:

"How dear to this heart are the scenes of my childhood,
When fond recollection presents them to view!"

It is natural for mankind to love the place of their nativity. I have never known a man who was ashamed of the place of his birth, and but one woman; and I hope never to meet another; it would make me lose confidence in humanity. I am glad this person is a woman and not a man, for I could not excuse a man; somehow we can excuse in the gentler sex actions for which we can find no reason; women are and have a right to be sentimental and emotional; it adds to their charms.

Why this acquaintance should be ashamed to own that she was born in the beautiful city of Detroit is not known; she does not know herself; the only reason she gives is a favorite one of her sex—"Because!" The only excuse I can offer for her, and the only palliation for my own feelings in the matter, is expressed in the words of the small boy who was not altogether appreciative of the accomplishments of his younger sister, and feeling that his vocabulary could not do the subject justice, simply said, "She is only a girl." It takes at least one exception to prove a rule. Men and women do love and will continue to revere their native place.

New Englanders are especially pleased and satisfied that the accident of birth came to them here. It may seem blessed to have been born on the bank of one of the piny streams in the great state of Maine, or amid the incomparable green hills of Vermont, or along the shore of historic and classic Massachusetts, or somewhere by factories humming merrily in the Commonwealth of Connecticut, or perhaps in "Little Rhoda," which first of all the states has the distinction of having gathered four fifths of her population into busy cities. But — is there anywhere between the eternal rocks lashed by the waves of the boisterous Atlantic, and where the surf rolls gently up on the Pacific slope, and between the picturesque unsalted commercial seas of the north, and the Great Gulf that kisses the border of our sunny Southland a better place in which to first see the light, than in our own beloved New Hampshire — the "Switzerland of America," and where in all this state is a more lovely spot than just here? Somehow the far famed mountains, the low sweet murmur of the pines, the mirror like lakes lying in the bosom of the granite hills, streams wandering amid the the highlands, and winding serpentine like through the green meadows, passing ever on to the sea — all contribute to lofty aspirations, and to make sturdy qualities in the lives of men born in the Granite State.

It is a good state in which to develop the intellect — a good place to "think," and digest what is learned in the text books. A greater per cent. of Dartmouth College graduates have turned out to be really eminent men, than the gradnates of any other college in our wide domain. Pity it is, that many of us who have had no liberal education, could not have had the privilege of develop-

ment within Dartmouth's walls, that we might have done better service in helping to build this great nation of ours; but let us be thankful that what is denied the fathers, is often a privilege of the sons.

You have always been so kind to me that I make bold to indulge in a word that is just a little personal, but I say it to glorify your state, and what I consider your chief asset.

Not long since I visited the office of a young attorney in the city of Chattanooga. On the wall over his desk is suspended a picture of Dartmouth College buildings and grounds, with a glimpse of the hills

A VILLAGE SCENE

beyond. The young man pointed to it and said: "Father, that picture of my Alma Mater is ever a source of pleasure and inspiration to me." The young man had a choice of attending any college or university in the United States. He has never ceased to thank himself that, after the most careful deliberation he was wise enough to have selected Dartmouth. Of the five diplomas he holds from educational institutions, the one he prizes high above the sum of them all, is the one that bears upon it the seal of old Dartmouth. I venture the assertion, that the greatest pleasure of his college career comes to him by his right to wear the little insignia of high grade college work—a Phi Beta Kappa key which is inscribed "Dartmouth 1901."

We have here on this platform a native of this town, and a distin

guished son of Dartmouth. A number of us celebrating here were schoolmates of his in the little old red "knowledge box" in District No. 3, better known as "Cricket Corner." The school is one of a system of educational institutions which has made New England famous. I use the word schoolmates advisedly; our grey matter in quality and quantity did not admit of our being his classmates; he was in a class by himself; and it is not necessary for me to tell you in the parlance of the rural schools of that day, that his was the first class in all studies. He lived in a different world from the rest of us. I am ashamed of it now, but but we felt a sympathy for him almost bordering upon sorrow, because we thought he must feel so lonesome!

Forty and more years and what now? He is still in a class by himself; he still lives in another world; he has a prefix to his name because of his much learning.

With the notable exception of the present head of the Boston bar, we have no prefix nor affix, nor suffix to our names; we are in just this fix—we move along in the motly throng unnoticed and unknown; we wear no wreath of laurels, and do not march in the van; we are what is known as "tail enders." Occasionally we may be asked to do something easy like reminiscence—something that all understand, and that anybody can do, but when the realm of the classics and sciences are invaded we are barred by lack of ability and preparation.

When the governor of the great state of Minnesota wishes to know something of the soil that produces wheat, sought after by many nations in many climes; if he desires information about the beautiful lakes dotting the emerald landscape like a setting of diamonds, he doffs his hat and walks into the presence of Dr. Warren Upham and asks him. When the selfsame governor seeks historical knowledge of townships, distinguished families and noted personages in our Union of states and the Dominion of Canada, he hies himself to the library of the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul, and holds a conference with Librarian Upham. Governors may come and go, and be more in the lime-light than is our friend, but he is a power behind the high office of governor greater than the office itself.

Warren, I did not mean to make you blush! When we cold phlegmatic Yankees and amature orators get into action we are apt to embarrass people. Beside we are celebrating today and have privileges, and I want to exercise all the privileges coming to me.

No matter whether we be college graduates or not, nor how lazy nor dull, nor inefficient we may be rated as being later in life, none of us need be ashamed of what we accomplished in the first decade of our existence.

The activities, developments and accomplishments of child life are too well known to dwell upon here. The fullness of joy crowded into that period is the matter of our concern just now; the recollection of it follows us all of our days.

Pursuit creates a happiness so far overshadowing possession, that the child is kept delighted by constantly learning from day to day. The child is a student of nature, science and art. Rather deep studies, are they not?

Nature is the store-house, science is the key which unlocks it, and art's proudest triumph is to interpret nature. As embryo men and women we thought, planned, and executed. We had our ideals. We placed in our childhood's "Hall of Fame" the minister, the lawyer, the doctor, the village store-keeper, the high school master, the captain of the gaudily uniformed fire company, also the "rich." We did not then know the terms "possessor of wealth," "capitalist," and "captains of industry"; but if a man

was called "rich" he was distinguished in our childish estimation, and must necessarily have a place in our "Hall of Fame."

The natural and social parts of our environment are happy memories; the blades of grass, the opening flowers, the woods, the streams, the hills; the old homestead, our favorite play grounds, the change of season, from spring to summer, from autumn to winter, with the occupations and sports peculiar to each; then the vivid imagination that some day we would become men and women such as we had placed in our "Hall of Fame"; the school days, too, with the friendships then formed never to be broken — all conjoin to make us even at this good hour almost wish that we could have been children forever. I cannot pass from childhood's happy hour, without one reference to what I may term the feeling of possession or ownership and our love and pride interwoven with it all. This was our town, our streets, our hills, our school, our church. The feeling of ownership gave an added charm to childlife that we have felt at no time and no where else. I never expect to hear, until I hear it in the New Jerusalem, a bell of sweeter tone than the one that swings in your church belfry. Lovely chimes I have heard here and there, but my ear in childhood had already been attuned to the tone made by the clock striking the hour on the church bell here. No weathervane has ever struck my fancy with such thrilling force as the "golden rooster" on the church steeple; true I have in later years wondered why the form of a harp, or cross, or crown would not have been more appropriate. Perhaps the vane had a two-fold purpose in the minds of those responsible for its being placed there — to indicate the direction of the wind, and to remind worshippers that it was the crowing of the cock that brought St. Peter to a realization of the broken vow to his Lord and Master.

A time comes when childish things must be put away; and do you say assume the fullness of an adult? Oh no! not so fast; the next step is a condition the like of which is seen and felt no more during our lives. Youth must be reckoned with. The pent up forces in him must break forth — the fiery impetuosity of youth carries everything before it. The maddening fury of a cavalry charge (not excepting the Light Brigade) was never more spectacular than unsuppressed youth. Suppress him utterly, and you have an extinct volcano; guide him, and you have a thoroughbred whose sublime movements are the admiration of all.

What more enjoyable time in life is there, than its spring-time, before the cares, burdens, and responsibilities come trooping up; a period when we are clothed, and fed, and housed, and have recreation at the hands of others.

We felt that of course "tomorrow was to be as this day and much more abundant." That our wisdom was superior to any the world had yet seen, for did we not have the latest of the world's accumulated wisdom, in all matters pertaining to life laid before us as an open book? The accumulated records of man's experience of the ages were our heritage. Indeed were we not the heirs of all the ages? Was it not a glorious inheritance? Much more progress there could not be, for the limit of human capabilities seemed to have been attained in the time of our youth; therefore, there could be no problems for the morrow to solve, and so, logically enough, we knew the sum of human wisdom, past, present and future.

Gladly we praised the Fates for bringing us into action in the "golden age" of all time! Long since these illusions have vanished, and are memories.

We had other ideas also. Our elders in speech, dress and in thinking and acting were "old fashioned"; we were up to date. Our elders praised us when we did a meritorious thing, and told us what bright and shining lights we were sure to become, and that brought satisfaction to our heart and a flush to our cheek. Sometimes we did unmeritorious things and that brought dissatisfaction and a flush elsewhere than to the cheek! We were filled with joy because we were so soon to occupy the places of those whose freedom we envied. Did not our parents and guardians come and go and control everything by their own sweet will? Was not that just the one thing more in life to attain? Would not very shortly all our ambitions be gratified? Among the ambitions, we longed for power to rule in the affairs of state, and did not know that even if we ruled in wisdom and love, there would be many to criticise adversely and harshly; and if we ruled unwisely, curses long, loud, and deep would be our portion; neither did we realize that even if our slightest wish were instantly obeyed, the king of Death might at any moment wrest the scepter from our hand. Perhaps we had a thirst for knowledge, a laudable ambition indeed; but, we were not aware what an empty thing it really is; the more we know, the more we find what is to be known; we stand in a circle of light, and as knowledge increases the darkness recedes, the charmed circle enlarges; the agony comes when we tread where the light and the darkness meet at the circle's rim, and peer into the gloom beyond until our strength is all gone, and then realize that even the alphabet is not yet learned! The finite cannot grasp the Infinite. Youth sometimes asks for wealth, for wealth's sake; as well might they ask for a millstone to be hanged about their necks, and then be cast into the sea. The idle rich have furnished tragedies enough to make the world stand aghast. The bright, sweet lassie that walked by our side also had an ambition; she greatly desired personal beauty in a crown of rich tresses, sparkling eyes, lips of coral, teeth of pearls, and snowy whiteness of a shapely, jewel ornamented hand. She, too, in her innocence did not know that soul beauty is the only beauty that fades not.

Meteor-like childhood and youth passed, and we stood face to face with life sure enough, with its make-up of comedy and tragedy. The sensation to most of us at that time I am persuaded, was as though we stood on a lonely beach, and watched the ripples of the mighty ocean; they rippled on, and on, but our vision caught no shore on which they could ever break. In that trying hour had not blessed hope whispered that someway and somehow, we would somewhere make port, utter discouragement would have ruined all.

We may not have realized it at the outset, but the most of us have of necessity been plodders in life with few climaxes to enliven and goad us on; be that as it may, there is comfort in the thought that the crowning glory of a successful life is this: that each individual resolves to be, and is, of service to mankind; a life lived for and within itself is a failure; yea, worse than a failure; he who possesses it is a cumberer of the ground.

While rendering our services to the world we might regard it as a great privilege if all of us could have remained from beginning to end amid the scenes, and among the companionships we

first knew, whether this be practical or not, it is a fact that many of us perform life's duties far and wide from home, and with strangers, and amid strange scenes.

What is the lure that takes us from so beautiful a section as this — our early home? Ah! it is not allurement at all; it is the spirit of unrest. For six thousand years, the more men have the more they crave; the more they achieve the more they desire achievement. The "unknown" with its mysteries stirs us to action, and keeps the imagination busy and working overtime, suggesting that something just beyond is easy of accomplishment, and more lovely than present environment; and so we are led hither and yon, and back and forth, with weary steps and aching hearts, that we may perchance somewhere find that which is satisfying.

If the spirit of unrest is given to man by the Ruler of us all, to enforce the Divine command, "Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it," then ought we to move forward with brave spirits happy in the thought that struggle gives strength.

After all, have we who have gone from among you rendered more or better service for these and the eternal years than you who have stood steadfastly to your tasks here? The record does not always show; but speaking for myself I shall be happy indeed if you will graciously allow me to claim equal honors with you. During the period of separation we have constantly thought of you lovingly, tenderly. Have you thought of us? While you have enjoyed the familiar scenes here, and friendships tried and true, and felt their sustaining influence, have you had sympathetic thought of us, amid unfamiliar scenes bending wearily to our tasks, that we prove ourselves worthy of new friendships which we might chance to make? If you have not done this in love, you are in debt to us.

Once more — we need and ought to have your good thought of us, for we in our toil have been separated not only from our early friends much beloved, but from our kindred as well. Speaking once again for myself — when departing from this goodly town forty and one years since, I left nearly a score of kinspeople; today as I return there is one here, and one only, to greet me.

We see friend after friend pass with time into the unseen. I hope it will not appear out of place for me to refer, in a word, to a new made grave that has touched all hearts alike in sorrow.

That Milton Wilkins loved mankind, we know. We are equally sure that he was in full sympathy and hearty accord with the Man of Gallilee, whose teachings are changing matters from the jargon, confusion, and strife that prevailed at the Tower of Babel, and is drawing all mankind together in sympathy, love and happiness, at the foot of the Cross. To those that are dear to him, who now sit in the shadows, let us in sympathy say, rejoice that such a life was given to you for a season. I fancy that I hear his voice from out the deep, deep silence saying to his dear ones here: "Inasmuch as ye wrought faithfully and well while I was with you in the flesh, fail not to yet keep steadily, patiently and persistently to the work of your mission and let your feet not stray from the road that leads to the Eternal City."

It is the human and the divine in us that forces the expression with Tennyson:

> "But oh for the touch of a vanish'd hand,
> And the sound of a voice that is still!"

We may have had lack of sympathy from you, but the Father Almighty is loving and wise; and He has arranged that we have less of sorrow than of joy, else we could not bear the burden. We are thrice glad that the rainbow of promise has never deserted our sky; then it matters not very much where men may be, when precious thoughts of other years pass athwart the mind's vision, we involuntarily exclaim "Buena Vista!"

Recollections of home is the lure, and mingled emotions the impelling force that calls men from all the walks of life, back to the place of their nativity. The call comes to him who each morning begs of his rich neighbor leave to toil; it presents itself by the bench of the mechanic, and lurks among his tools; it confronts the manufacturer busy with plans for turning out the best products to supply the needs of his race; it whispers in the ear of the merchant in his office; it softens the heart of the banker in his counting room; and the men of the cloth, who declare the message of "Peace on earth, and good will to men," bow their heads in reverence when come to them visions of their childhood and youth.

Friends of my youth, fifty years ago and today have met; the hour in which they have kissed each other has struck. We of 1860 have our records almost finished. I have in the brief moment allotted to me in these exercises merely attempted to awaken in you thoughts of the past which are always profitable. At three score and more years life is nearly all memory; we do not at that age attempt many new enterprises. The taking of stock and the summing up of assets and liabilities in mercantile affairs show the results; you and I have reached in our career the summing up stage. A well managed business usually gives good results; a well managed life brings fragrant memories. Memory is generous; it is like the lily which graciously gives back to the sun from whence it receives it, all the coloring, which if retained would make the lily appear gorgeous; however, it stands immaculate on the stem, emblematic of purity and unselfishness; so memory gives back to us this day all the colors of the experience of half a century.

# *AMHERST MEN AND AMHERST AFFAIRS*

## Address by George W. Putnam of Lowell, Mass.

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Having heard the superb, scholarly, historical addresses just finished, and having learned so much about this good old town, I am prouder than ever that I am a son of Amherst.

The part that Amherst men took in the War of the Revolution and in the Battle of Bunker Hill has already been mentioned, but permit me to describe that historical battle.

One hundred and thirty-five years ago this morning, the Colonial Dames of Boston, the aristocratic Loyalists and the American Patriots, such as there were in the town, were all rudely awakened from their dreams by the roar of the six-gun battery on Copp's Hill and by the more distant canonading from the British ships of war in the harbor.

Tumbling from their beds and hastily dressing, they sent servants and messengers to inquire the cause of this disturbance. Soon it was reported that the American troops had seized Breed's Hill in Charlestown and that there was to be a battle.

It was a beautiful, warm June morning. The birds had been singing and flitting through the tree tops on the Common. The sun came up out of the ocean clear and hot. Everything in nature seemed as far from battle and bloodshed as it is in this quiet village this morning. But before the sun had fairly risen, the town rang with the rattling of artillery carriages, the shouts of officers, the roll of drums and the shrill yelling of fifes.

Early in the day a great company of all classes gathered on Beacon Hill and on Fort Hill to see the fight. There were in that company the elite of Boston, many of whom sympathized with the British, and there were patriotic Americans who prayed unceasingly in their loyal hearts for the safety of their kinsmen and friends, who were working so desperately on that distant hillside.

They chose view points as best they could on roofs, fences and stoops, and waited for the unusual spectacle.

After a long delay they saw, moving slowly out over the shimmering water of the harbor, several barges, packed with solid masses of scarlet, between which occasionally flashed the reflection of the sun on a musket or brass field-piece. One by one these barges unloaded its red-coated cargo on Moulton's Point, and returned for more troops. Gradually, out of the confusion, the red masses formed into regular lines and waited for their companions.

Meanwhile on the slopes of Breed's Hill nothing was to be seen except the unceasing toil with shovel and pick in spite of the constant and terrific thunder of the land and water batteries against those patriots on the hill.

About three o'clock in the afternoon, three red lines were seen moving slowly forward toward the hill. Steadily up, unchallenged, unmolested, unafraid, rolled those companies of King George the

Third, until some of the watchers said, "The rebels are going to surrender without a shot. There will be no battle."

*Then*, from all along the breastworks, burst a sheet of flame as if it hungered to scorch the very faces of its foes. The line staggered, writhed, reformed, fired one volley and sullenly crept back down the hill. And the magnificently trained King's Army had learned that they had a foeman worthy of their greatest skill.

Just before the movement up the hill, a dark, somewhat irregular mass of men was seen passing steadily over Charlestown Neck in the face of a furious fire from the ships on the river. They finally lost their formation but not their legs and on they ran, recklessly and bravely, till they reached the hill.

This was the regiment of trained Indian fighters from New Hampshire, the regiment of Col. John Stark. This was the regiment that was one of the last to leave the battlefield, having fired their last charge of powder, and used their muskets as clubs, they retreated, turning frequently with only musket barrels in their hands, to challenge the British to come on.

But why all this description? Because in that regiment that crossed Charlestown Neck and fought to the end, were seventy-one *Amherst* men, and for one hundred and fifty years wherever and whenever there has been a call for true, loyal hearts, whether in peace or war, *Amherst* men have answered the call.

Is it any wonder that we, who have the blood of such men in our veins, are proud of our ancestry? We have good reason to be, and may we ever be as loyal to our heritage as they were to their country.

Just to give you an idea of what sturdy stuff *Amherst* men were made and what they endured, permit me to tell you the story of one of them. He was just an ordinary man, not distinguished, and probably many of you never heard his name. It was Thomas Maxwell. When only fifteen years old, he was in the Ranger service, and for nine years suffered the terrible dangers of that brave band, part of the time under the command of Rogers and Stark.

He was one of Roger's company on that almost superhuman march from Crown Point, through hundreds of miles of unbroken wilderness, to the Indian village of St. Francis, followed by a large band of French and Indians, close on their heels. He crept, with others, into that Indian village in the night and helped to kill 200 Indian warriors. He accomplished that wonderful return to the Ammonusuc, during which journey men ate their belts, their moccasins and even their soaked up powder horns, to keep alive; all this when only a boy of seventeen.

He came to Amherst in 1764, and began driving an ox team to Boston, carrying produce and returning with various supplies. After one of these long and arduous journeys, he arrived in Boston in December, 1773. He did considerable business with John Hancock, who knew of him as a ranger. On this occasion, after some conversation about his load, Hancock said: "Do you want to see some sport tonight? If you do, put up your team in my stable and come to this warehouse after dark." Maxwell, always ready for an adventure, did as he was told, and, later in the evening painted and be-feathered as an Indian, helped to unload that famous cargo of tea into Boston Harbor.

On another visit to Boston, in April, 1775, he had returned as

THE AMHERST STATION ROAD

far as his sister's in Bedford, where he was spending the night. His sister's husband was Capt. Jonathan Wilson, in command of the Bedford Minute-Men.

During the night they heard "A hurry of hoofs in the village street."

They saw

"A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,"

And knew

"That the fate of a nation was riding that night."

He was asked to accompany the Bedford men, gladly accepted, went "well armed' 'and you may be sure that more than one "red-coat" rolled in the dust as the result of this ranger's marksmanship.

In the fight Captain Wilson was killed. Maxwell returned to Bedford, hired a man to take home his team, and repaired to Cambridge where the Amherst Company, of which he was second lieutenant, shortly arrived. On June 17, 1775, he was one of the brave men who crossed Charlestown Neck under fire, as already mentioned. In that fight, history says that he lost "one fine shirt and one powder horn."

After the evacuation of Boston by the British, in 1776, Maxwell marched with the army to Providence and New York and from thence to Canada and back to Crown Point and Ticonderoga. In December, 1776, he with his regiment joined the army under

General Washington an dhe was in those famous battles at Trenton and Princton. In 1777, he was in the battle at Hubbardston, Vt., where the British so badly whipped the Americans. He alsuo took part in the battles of Bennington, Bemis Heights and Saratoga. In 1778, he was employed in the ranger service in Central New York and was in the battle of Stony Arabia. A year later, 1779, he was with General Sullivan in his expedition against the hostile Indians in Central New York. For a few years Mr. Maxwell turned to ways of peace and resided with his family at Buckland, Mass., whither they had removed. During this time he was chosen a member of the convention that framed the Constitution of Massachusetts. In 1787, the war spirit was again aroused and he became captain of a company to suppress Shay's Rebellion in western Massachusetts.

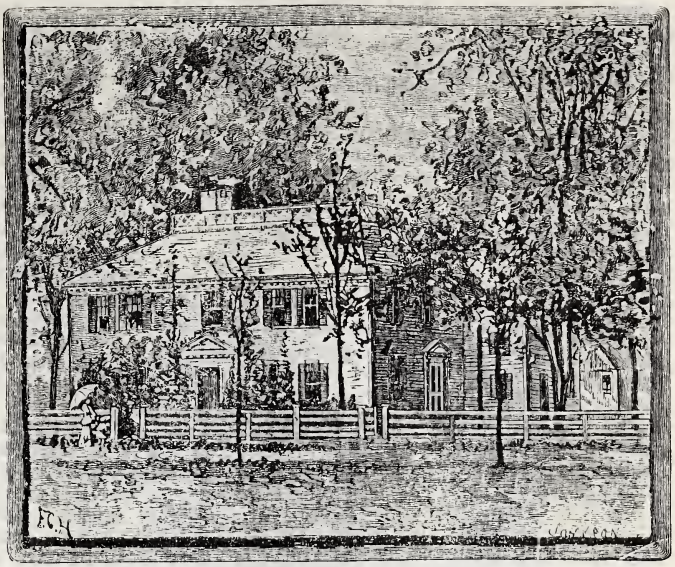
The tireless energy of the old pioneer possessed him and in 1800, at the age of fifty-eight, he moved to Ohio and engaged in farming. Twelve years later, at the age of seventy, when it seemed as though he had given enough for his country, he again shouldered a musket and joining the army under General Hull, marched to Detroit where he was taken prisoner. After his release upon parole he returned home, then his house was burned by a mob that accused him of having advised the surrender of Hull. This would have soured the patriotism of most men, but in 1813, he again joined the army under Harrison, and in 1814, seventy-two years old, served under General Miller at Chippewa, Landy's Lane and Fort Erie. Near the latter place he was once more taken prisoner by the British, who treated him with great severity. He was exchanged in March, 1814, and returned to his home, where he died at the good old age of ninety-two.

This is the story of only one Amherst pioneer. Probably it differs in detail only from that of Peabody, Crosby, Wilkins, Towne and a dozen others, because when the War of the Revolution called for men, one man in every three in Amherst, between the ages of 16 and 80, answered the call and were just as ready as Thompson Maxwell to endure what he did had the same opportunity offered.

In 1861, Amherst men were again ready to give their lives for their country, as yonder bronze tablet ever stands ready to testify. But, if there were no monument, there are those present today who could tell us all about it, and when they too have passed out of sight, their names should be so graven on the tablets of our memory that nothing will efface them so long as life lasts.

Amherst may well be proud of the record of her sons in the past, but what of the present and the future? That question may safely be answered by the fact that "like begets like" and some of the same families, with the same blood flowing in their veins, are in Amherst today, that were here one hundred and fifty years ago. It is reasonable to believe then, that, should a similar crisis arise as that of 1776, or that of 1861, Amherst men would be just as patriotic and just as ready to lay down their lives for a principle as were their ancestors.

Ex-President Tucker of Dartmouth College says: "The constant and honorable boast of New Hampshire has been of the *quality* of the men whom she could furnish to the nation." And it may well be said that the constant and honorable boast of Amherst has been and ever will be, of the *quality* of the men whom she has furnished and can furnish to the nation.



THE ROBERT MEANS RESIDENCE
Where President Pierce Was Married.

But some one says that times have changed; that Amherst men are quiet, peace loving people; that Amherst has lost all of her former greatness as the county seat; her court house and jail; her lawyers; her bank; her hotels; all of her business interests and even her newspaper.

All of the items set forth in this indictment may be true, but let me say a few things for your consolation.

First, as to your occupation as farmers, do you remember—

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled *farmers* stood
And fired the shot heard round the world."

Do you remember in 1861 that it was the boys from the quiet New England farms and villages who first answered the call for troops? So it will always be, that the nation must turn to the country in a crisis when she needs men or votes of the kind that are true to her interests.

It is true that you have lost your court house and jail and the lawyers that go with them, or in them, but with all due respect to legal fraternity present, these are some of the things that never should be missed in a town like Amherst. If any man here desires litigation he ought to be compelled to drive to Nashua or Manchester for it, because by the time he reaches either city he may be sufficiently cooled to let his wiser judgment prevail and decide to settle his case out of court.

It is true that you have no large shops or mills or so-called "big enterprises," but business and bustle are not the best things a town can have, because with them must inevitably come, sooner or later, foreign populations, and the wretchedness and wickedness of poorly paid, intemperate laborers.

No! Let Amherst remain just as she is,— a clean, beautiful, respectable Yankee town. She is just the kind of a town about which we dwellers in the cities dream and build, not "Castles in Spain," but little bungalows and cottages, which we hope may sometime materialize, and to which we may retire from the noise and smoke and filth and jargon of the city, to enjoy the quiet peace, the clear sweet air, the songs of birds and the sound of Yankee tongues.

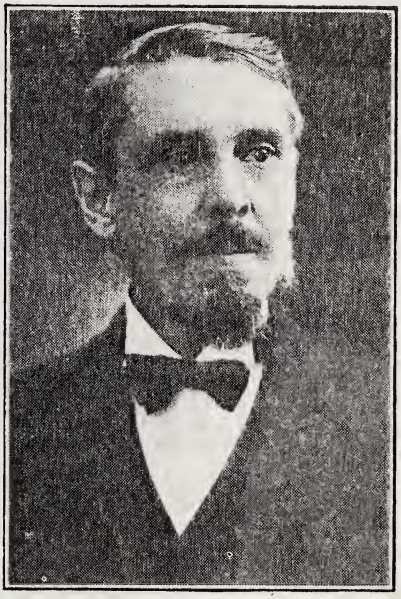
While Amherst may never be a "business town," this is what she may be, if all of you who live within her boundaries, will work together in harmony for her best interests; she may be a town famous for her thrifty, prosperous people; famous for her well educated children; famous for her good roads and beautiful drives; famous for her neat, well-kept, quiet village; famous for the good work done by her churches; and famous for her public spirited, large-hearted fellowship. These are the things that invite good people to come here and live here as one of you. It cannot all be accomplished by one man, but it can be accomplished if every one of you does his or her share.

These things being done, you and your children will have written on the pages of history a record to which posterity can turn with as much pride one hundred and fifty years from today as we now look back over the record of the one hundred and fifty years just finished.

# *Home Life in Amherst Fifty Years Ago.*

**By Warren Upham, D. Sc., of St. Paul, Minn.**

This anniversary, completing a hundred and fifty years from the founding of Amherst, is filled with memories of the past, gratitude and joy for the present, and hope for the future. Half a century is



WARREN UPHAM

Assistant on the Geographical Survey of N. H., 1875-78; of Minnesota, 1879-85 and 1893-94; and of the United States, 1885-95. Secretary of the Minnesota Historical Society since Nov. 1, 1895.

a large part of a lifetime, and therefore this historic town has called together her sons and daughters to review her achievements and progress. It is a time for the old to renew the acquaintance and friendships of their youth, and for the young to look forward with eager anticipation of the work that they will take up.

From the North Star State in the center of this continent, where the Mississippi river has its sources, I have come as one of the children of Amherst, to bring my tribute of affection for my native town.

In one of its homes, and in one of its schools, I was nurtured and taught. The love and careful training of my parents and teachers I now most fully understand and value, when they are recalled in memory across the intervening fifty years.

It is a great pleasure to return to the old homestead farm, to meet my kindred there and in other homes near, and to see the Souhegan river, Baboosic pond, Walnut hill, and all the hills and mountains around Amherst.

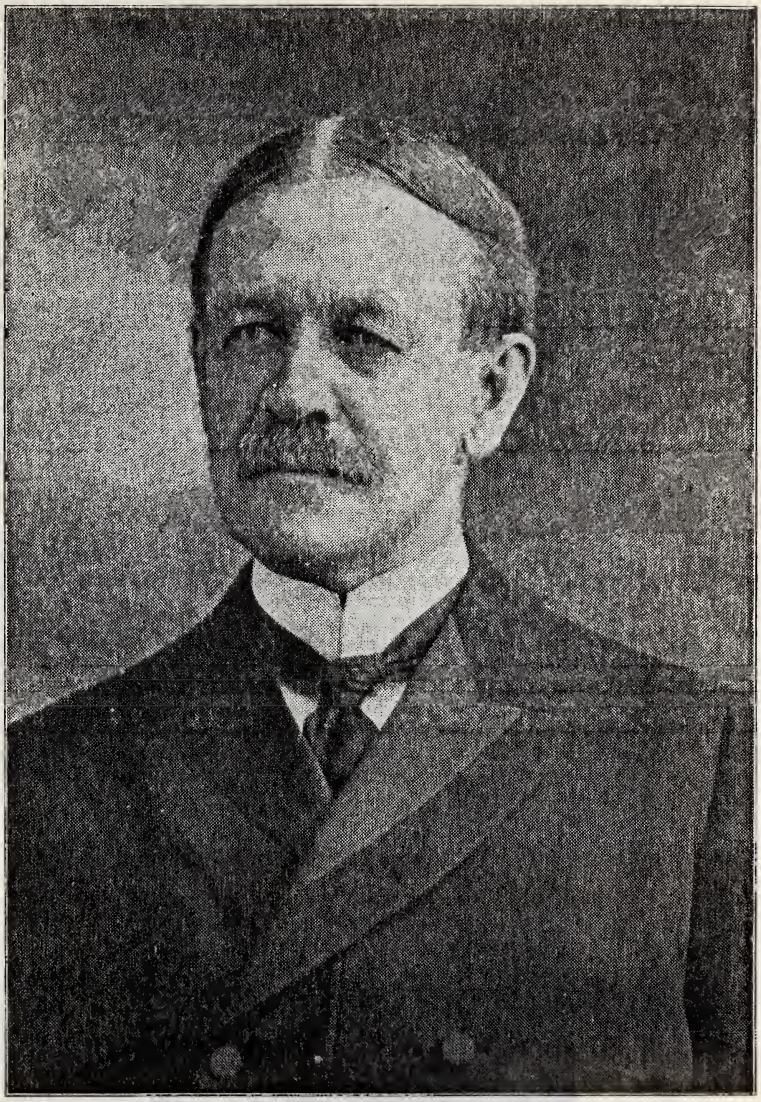
With deepest gratitude I remember the home life of fifty years ago and the precepts and example of father and mother, brothers and sisters. Industry was learned there in the tasks of every day. Trust in God was taught by the family worship each morning and evening.

Next to the influences of the home were those of the district school, which I also shall always gladly remember for the benefits received from teachers and schoolmates. One of the chief motives for coming to this reunion was the expectation of again seeing many of the old schoolmates and neighbors here today.

Similar to these daily influences of the home and school were those of the church and Sunday School, which likewise had a large share in moulding the character of the people who have made the history of this town, or who went forth to find their work elsewhere.

While we speak and sing the praises of our grand old town, I have wished thus to recall somewhat of its home life, and of the education received here from the school and the church. I believe that all who have been so taught and brought up here will join in this tribute of honor and thanks to our parents and teachers. Let the present homes of Amherst and those yet to be founded, treasure as their best possession the principles and practice of our fathers and mothers fifty years ago.

What I have endeavored to say so earnestly and heartily that it will be remembered and lived by the young people of Amherst today, and through all succeeding time, has been better written by Payne in the song, "Home, Sweet Home," by Burns in "The Cotter's Saturday Night," by Gray in his "Elegy in a Country Church Yard," and in the fifth commandment of the Decalogue, which was given not only for one nation but for all the earth and for all time.



GOV. HENRY B. QUINBY.

## *Address of Governor Quinby.*

Governor Quinby said in part:

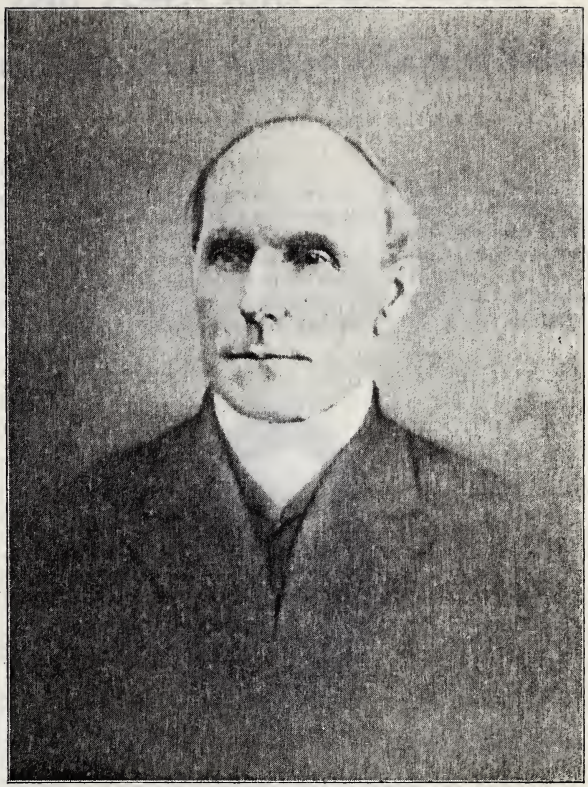
New Hampshire takes pride in her noble ancestry, being a daughter of Massachusetts, and she is proud of her progeny of attractive and historic cities, towns and villages; cities, towns and villages with splendid records for good government and for the production of great men; men who have made fadeless history for our state as patriots and as statesmen and who have done their full share in making New Hampshire one of the brightest stars in the galaxy of states.

It is very gratifying to know that history's pages have inscribed upon them what Amherst was, what she is and what she has done; those priceless records are preserved, and will, I doubt not, be presented to us by one to whom their preparation and presentation are labors of love; and I will not trespass to any extent upon his field, leaving the life history of this beautiful town to be treated by him who has made it a study.

It will be enough for me to say that Amherst, formerly comprising also Mont Vernon and Milford, and which was chartered by Benning Wentworth, for 25 years royal governor of this commonwealth, has played an important part in making our state one of influence and in giving it a high position among the states of our union.

Exceeded in 1790 but by few towns in the state in population, she contributed liberally of her brave men to the French and Indian wars, the Revolution, the War of 1812 and the Civil War and also to civil life many who won laurels for town, state and nation.

Amherst has a right to rejoice on this the 150th anniversary of her natal day and as chief executive of New Hampshire, which she has so signally honored in war and in peace, I extend to her and to you her loyal citizens, my sincere congratulations.



REV. JOHN PEACOCK, EVANGELIST

Born in Amherst, May 3, 1804 and died there June 13, 1876. Baptized at Milford Dec. 29, 1823. Licensed to preach by the Milford church in 1828. Ordained as an Evangelist in Canaan, N. H., Aug. 25, 1830, and spent a long life with marked success in his chosen calling, mostly in Maine and New Hampshire. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord and their works do follow them."

# *THE TOWN AND THE STATE.*

## Address by Ex-Mayor Jeremiah J. Doyle of Nashua.

Mr. Doyle said in part:

Under our form of government, every sub-division of the body politic adds strength to the whole governmental structure. The Union is divided into states and the states in turn are divided into counties, which are further sub-divided into cities and towns. Upon a foundation then of smaller communities rests the government. It does not follow that great centers of population are important features in making up a more desirable form of central government because the

HON. JEREMIAH J. DOYLE

smaller communities as frequently contribute to the might and main of the state.

Each town is but an individual in the great family, called the state and as different members of human family have peculiar characteristics which distinguish one from another, so towns are similarly endowed. The peculiarities and characteristics of towns are as marked as are those of individuals. Taught by bitter experiences in the earliest days of our republic, towns adopted measures for protection against their enemies. Individually they planned for their self protection: collectively they made protection more certain and the spirit of those days has remained though the necessity for it has disappeared. The spirit which in earlier days was ardent in the cause of liberty has outlived the war of 1776 and is today stronger if anything than it was then. The desire for liberty when oppression is felt in

all its cruelty may be strong but ardor and patriotism manifested in times of peace and quiet is the stronger spirit and the one which commands the respect and admiration of all. In the great centers of population people congregate together attracted by commercialism. Greater opportunity to labor for wages, more and better facilities for employment, more convenient arrangements for schools and other similar duties for one's children as well as her attractive features are all causes which lead people to live in the greater cities. Their surroundings, mode of living and the alleged advantages of advanced civilization, there to be found in plenty, all tend to make people forget the more vital principles. Where can be found a more powerful manifestation of the love of liberty and its appurtenances than in that spirit which surrounds the great interest taken in public matters connected with the proper guidance and government of towns? Where is the more interest shown, in cities or in towns, in public affairs? Every public question touching upon the welfare of a town is debated and discussed fully, and that spirit is what makes the town meeting what it is.

The spirit that pervades these numerous little republics is what makes the state solid and sound. The make-up of our town inhabitants is responsible for the policy of the state as a whole in no mean degree. Independence, public spirit, aggressiveness and good common sense characterize our townspeople. Questions arise and are settled without recourse to, or the hampering effects of, any outside consideration. The good of the community is the first and last requisite. Nothing else enters in. Such being the quality and character of the town in itself, great must be the benefit to the state as a proper result. Again, the town gives full allegiance to the higher government, fulfilling its duty towards the state, as one of its component parts. The state then as a body economic or body industrial grows up in the cooperation of men to supply their wants and satisfy their desires. The greater the independence, public spirit and aggressiveness in each individual member, the greater these qualities in the town, the greater the public spirit of the state. Some towns are marked for the remarkable thrift of their inhabitants ; others for wealth ; others for civic pride in local affairs, the beautifying of their highways and private locations. Towns that occuyy enviable positions in the political sphere, because of some especial attribute, merit such prominence because of some especial quality of its inhabitants. In communities where one finds a greater number of careless, thoughtless, easy going individuals, progress is retarded and but little is accomplished while on the contrary, where we find a preponderence of public-spirited citizens who have the very best interests of their town at heart as well as their own individual betterment, we find a town that is celebrated for its political advancement.

When we find a town that for a succession of generations has been prominently identified with public progress, civic advancement and uninterupted performance of every public duty to the nation as well as to the state, when we know that a town has for a century and a half responded to every call and always stood in the very fore-front among its sister towns in promptness and value of public service, we know then that such a proud showing is not the result of geographical location but the result of the brawn, the muscle and manhood of those who make up its inhabitants.

When a town has for such a space of time furnished to the higher fields of activity and to the higher government men who have commanded the respect and the admiration of their fellow men who have excelled in the professions, the arts and in short in all walks of life, then we know what manner of men must be the body politic of the

BAPTIST CHURCH

town that claims them and sent them forth to battle and do their life's work either at home or abroad.

Such a town is Amherst. From the time when the great and general court, as it was styled, of Massachusetts, granted to the survivors of the Indian war against Philip, down to the present day, Amherst has had a history that may well be regarded with extreme pride.

We are told that the original settlers came from Massachusetts and brought with them the customs which prevailed at that time, including simplicity of dress, plain and substantial fare, with none of the luxuries of life.

From that time progress was the watchword, meeting houses were built, bridges were made, highways laid out, grist mills erected and advance along similar lines was rapid. In 1760 the charter was signed by Benning Wentworth, governor of the province and the name of Amherst was taken. There meetings were held and the progress of the town became more marked. Upon a division of the province of New Hampshire into five counties, in 1771 Amherst was selected as a shire town and acquired a degree of importance hitherto unknown.

When hostilities broke out between America and England in 1775 Amherst was represented at a convention held in Exeter. As an indication of the attitude of the people of Amherst of that day, it is well to consider the instructions given to their delegates to that convention which were "To use their endeavors to secure peace and good order in the town and use their utmost efforts to diffuse peace

and good order throughout the community and to excite in the minds of the people a due respect to all just measures that might be recommended by the grand congress of Philadelphia." Even in those days, "Peace and good order in the town" were considered of paramount importance, a fact which indicates to our minds that public duties were considered all important.

It is unnecessary to relate that Amherst furnished its full quota of men for military service, because too well is known what history has recorded upon this point. While that war was in progress Amherst suffered the hardships and difficulties that were generally endured by the people of New Hampshire. Soon, however, progress once again was in order and Amherst took the lead among its neighbors. It had its difficulties, its problems to work out, its public questions to settle which it always did in no uncertain manner. It has consistently maintained its distinctive position among New Hampshire towns and it seems to be a sufficient word of praise to refer to Amherst as a "good old town." Today Amherst stands without a peer among the towns in Hillsborough County, quiet, sane and conservative.

It is blessed with great natural advantages for agriculture. Its schools are second to none as proven by the success in life achieved by those whose early education was obtained here. It is free from the contaminating influences of close association with larger communities, and as a consequence its tone of morals is one of the best. Its men are men of principle, integrity and honor. It is particularly free from crime or vice. Its standard of life is the highest.

I need not particularize nor go into a detailed account of its history. Others can do that better than I. I can say however that such a town as Amherst is of invaluable value and benefit to the State of New Hampshire. It is one of the principal foundation stones of the state Its influence is felt in its surrounding towns and is felt in the state's political position.

New Hampshire would be better had it more towns similar to Amherst. New Hampshire would do well to follow the example Amherst has set in its own important public questions Amherst may well be proud of her record and of the achievements and loyalty of her people. It is a matter to take pride in, that her record speaks so well for her. The many years of continued prominence must satisty the most exacting. Amherst has always done well, and everything points to a most successful and prosperous future. You are entitled to the congratulations and compliments of the state of New Hampshire as one of her best equipped and best behaved children, and I know that on this day there is in the minds of the people, far and wide, a deep seated sentiment and feeling for this good old town and its people all of which is merited.

## *Address of Ex-Governor John McLane.*

I desire to make my grateful acknowledgment to your Committee for the courtesy of an invitation which permits me to be present and join with you in the observance of this interesting and historical anniversary.

HON. JOHN McLANE

I bring to you the cordial greetings of all the citizens of Milford on this, your One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of your organization as a town. The fact that Milford was once a part of Amherst makes this occasion of especial interest to us. Please accept our felicitations and congratulations upon your prosperity and splendid historical achievement throughout the whole long existence of this typical unit of our great Republic. Others may perhaps boast of a larger growth on account of the accident of location, but no town can with truth maintain that in the essentials of real progress and growth they have done better than the old town of Amherst. You have lived and wrought in the true spirit of the Pilgrim and the Puritan: you are a living tribute to them and serve to hold in perpetuity for the present

and those who shall come after, the character, courage and example of those who gave birth to liberty on our soil and secured political freedom and independence to themselves and their posterity. Their descendents and those not their descendents are today grateful for the inestimable blessings bequeathed to them by the fathers and founders of this town who one hundred and fifty years ago unfurled the standard of their faith. We cherish their memories and learn again the lessons of their trials and triumphs. They endured the privations of a new Country; they kept the faith not alone for themselves but for mankind; they looked forward, not backward. It was to escape the past and its environments that led them from home and ties and kindred. Their opportunity was the new field. Their hope and faith the future which under God they were to make for themselves. For this they suffered, for this they builded and they builded well and strong.

It has been said that New England blood flows through the veins of one-fourth of our entire population. But New England character and New England civilization course through every vein and artery of the Republic, and if the New Englanders are not everywhere found their light illumines the pathway of our progress, and their aims and ideas permeate and strengthen our whole political structure. They have fought and bled upon every battlefield of the Nation, from Concord and Bunker Hill, where so many brave Amherst men met a glorious death, to Gettysburg and Appomattox. They have shaped largely the course of the Republic in the past It will be well for the Republic if their influence shall be felt and enforced in its course in the future. What has been gained through centuries of struggle and sacrifice must be kept and preserved. The future must be worthy of the glories which have gone before. This is our trust. Nothing must be abated of vigilance or duty on our part that we may hand down this priceless hereitage unimpaired to our children. Nothing gives greater hope of the future than genuine respect and affectionate reverence for that which is noble and good in the past May you good people of Amherst be as prosperous and happy in the future as your past has been just and honorable.

## *Address of Rev. Henry Porter Peck.*

I am happy to bring to her mother, the greetings of her younger daughter, Mont Vernon, and to say in answer to Governor McLane, so evidently unread in her history, that Amherst used to consider her so well worth saving that she as repeatedly refused to let her go as

REV. HENRY PORTER PECK

ever Pharoah did the Children of Israel. Mont Vernon pleaded and begged to be allowed to build her own houses for worship and civic government, but in vain until appealing to the state, she at last secured her release. Her mother loved her so well, her apron strings were so strong and so tightly drawn, that her first meeting house, whose huge timbers still form the framework of our fine Town Hall, was not built until the Revolution, nor was she allowed to govern herself until the beginning of the nineteenth century. But such mother-love made the daughter nervous, and for a time seems to have been so little reciprocated that she looked down from her lofty eminence and called her mother "Sodom," and declared she could see the smoke of her torment arising every frosty morning. One of Mont Vernon's sons, in those days, being asked to give a toast at a dinner, proposed the following :

"Amherst, with a big church and tall steeple,
An Armenian preacher and accursed people!"

But all this happened to our ancestors amid the pioneer condition of a hundred years ago and happily is long since forgotten by their successors. Once free to work out her own salvation, and patriotically taking her name from the home of Washington, Mont Vernon went on her quiet way with unfailing industry and success, transforming her forests into productive farms, introducing such manufacturing as times and conditions permitted, and finally, because she was wise enough to choose a site beautiful for situation and fit to be the joy of the whole earth, is being crowned with hotels and cottages and is destined to become more and more the delightful summer home of those who would escape the heat and burden of the lowlands.

It is good, however, in common with you and all the goodly towns of New England, to bear witness to the fact that we have built the house of all our material prosperity upon two pillars, Religion and Education. The old church, in its new and beautiful home still beckons us to Heaven, and the old Academy building, with its new use for the Stearns School, still points to its many graduate's records of service at home and abroad, and looks to future influence of the same character.

Thus with all our getting we have striven most of all for Goodness and Truth and upon these ideals we hope to build a prosperous future.

But on this Red Letter day, the 150th anniversary of your birth, we do not forget that you are our mother—but that for you, we should not have been. As we look forth toward the southland from the lofty brow of Prospect Hill, a thousand feet above the sea, the view can hardly be surpassed—the endless variety of forest tops over which the cloud shadows pass and play, interspersed with countless fields and homes, spires and chimneys of cities and towns, even to the glittering dome of New England's capitol—of all this the eye never wearies and the spirit never tires—but we do not forget that in the foreground, at our very feet, like a beautiful gem in its setting of emerald, shines forever our mother—"Amherst, Sweet Amherst, Lovliest village of the plain."

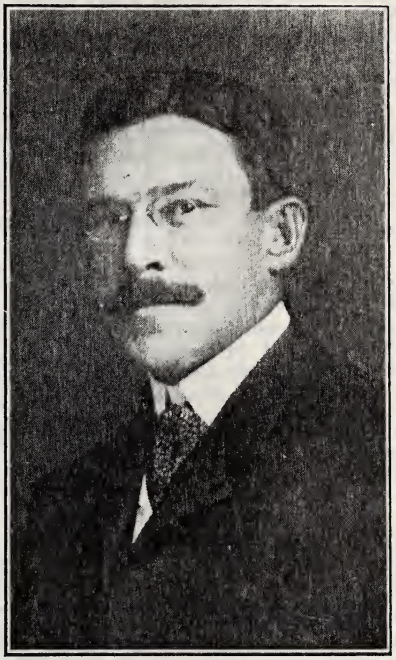
## *Address of William G. David.*

My subject appears so big, and would lead me back so far into the misty past, that I am disposed to the opinion that a qualifying phrase must have been inadvertently omitted. The David family, as we know, had its beginning about 3,000 years ago, when a certain young sheep-herder had a personal encounter with a bad, big man from Gath. It seems to me that I am desired to deal with a more peaceful valley than that bloodstained one of Elah, and that it is the David family in relation to Amherst with which I am to concern myself.

I am glad of this, for to my boyish imagination there was a fascination about Amherst that, try as I would, I could not associate with the scenes and heroes of the Old Testament. Amherst was a mysterious, far-away center, from which radiated all that was good and deligthful, and among my earliest and fondest recollections are the almost annual pilgrimages to this mecca of the youthful elect. If I was good I might perhaps go to Amherst, while any tendency to misconduct needed only a reproving glance and the word "Amherst" to bring me back to the paths of rectitude.

Summer after summer one or more of the three boys that comprised my father's family would be started off for Amherst. Here at the knee of my grandmother I learned to read and write; here I first went to school; here I caught my first fish; here, too, I learned that a New England Sunday of those days, with its almost continuous service from 10 to 3, was no halcyon holiday for a boy with a fish pole and birds' nests to look after. Here, too, it seemed to me, I passed most of my time in the very uncongenial occupation of changing my stockings, for, boy-like, I could not keep away from the meadow and the brook, and my grandmother, with thoughtful solicitude for my health, always felt of my legs and feet whenever she could get her hands on me, which was none too often—and always found them wet. That was my only sorrow; the rest was happiness unalloyed, and I think that even to this day, to the friends of my childhood, Amherst is a blessed spot, where the sun shines brighter, the trout grow bigger, and the people are kinder than anywhere else in the world—for I used to tell them so. And in later years it has been my too infrequent good fortune to sometimes come from the cares of active life to pass a few days among the scenes of my youthful joys. The joys are still here, not quite the same, and some only in recollection, but the wide-opening doors of the old home have not rusted on their hinges; there are still welcoming voices; the brook still winds through the meadow and the trout ponds still nestle under the hill. A few years ago, upon a visit, one of my first questions of John was: "Are there any trout in the brook?" The answer was dubious, discouraging, negative; but I thought I knew better and was out early the next morning and fished the brook faithfully, but without success. As a last resort I crept

cautiously up to the pond, and the very first cast brought a fine fish, and soon I had a half dozen beauties. When I returned to the house with my catch and asked to have them cooked for breakfast faithful John asked, "Where'd you ketch them?" "In the brook," I answered wickedly. The next day, as I observed John eyeing me with an air of reproach my conscience pricked me, and I confessed that I had not caught my fish in the brook at all, but in the pond. "I knowed you did," said John, "I put



WILLIAM G. DAVID

'em thar." Ah! what wonder that one should love a place where they almost put the trout on your very hook!

Time has brought its changes, but the spirit of the place still lingers. To those from a different world, from other states, there is something indescribably charming about old New England, about New Hampshire, of which Amherst is so happily typical. I happen to live in a country where nature smiles upon the husbandman, where if one but scratches the soil abundant crops spring forth, and hence I doff my hat to the sturdy men — my forebears and yours — who dug not merely a living, but competence from these rocks, and sent forth to other states their sons and daughters, to show other people how to live and to work, and to lead them and govern them.

One hundred and fifty years ago there was no David in Amherst. It was not until 1825, when a young man from Albany married a daughter of Amherst, that the name had its beginning here. My grandfather this was, Barnabus Bradt David, and I used to hear him say that he borrowed a hundred dollars of my grandmother when he started in business, and she would interject, "Yes, and you never paid it back." He engaged in the manufacture of whips, in partnership with his brother-in-law, Samuel B. Melendy. The partnership was unusual in that there were no articles, no written agreement, simply a verbal understanding that they would share equally. The business prospered and before many years there were stores or agencies in most of the cities, and there began to be profits. When my grandfather bought of Robert Means, who built it, the house in which he ever afterwards lived, now the home of his daughter, Mrs. G. W. Nichols, Uncle Samuel evened things up by buying his house on the square, now occupied by his daughters. When one partner bought a carriage and horses, the other did the same thing. When a boy or girl from one family went away to school, or college, there was usually one of about the same age in the other family to do the same. And so for sixty years or so this partnership of faith continued, and when, the partners both dead, the affairs of the firm came to be settled there wasn't much of anything to settle; each had had his share.

But it is of my grandmother rather that I think I ought to talk, for she was of Amherst, Elizabeth Welch Melendy by name. Her father, when he married Abigail Badger of Reading in 1780, was recorded as of Amherst, N. H. He was a son of W. M. Melendy, who married Hepsibah Emerson of Reading in 1753. This Hepsibah, my grandmother's grandmother, was a daughter of Nathaniel Emerson, who made his will in 1776, and died a year later. This will is so curiously illustrative of the manners and customs of Revolutionary times in rural New England and incidentally of the precise and prudent character of the said Nathaniel, that I will perhaps be pardoned if I read a little of it.

I give and bequeath to my dear and well beloved wife, Hepsibah Emerson, all my within door movables or household stuff, excepting what I shall otherwise dispose of. These I give to my wife to be hers and at her own disposal. Also my will is that my wife shall have the improvement of the two lower rooms in the eastwardly half of my dwelling house, which I now improve, and also the cellar under the same; also the well and sufficient yard room about the house for passing and repassing, laying wood, etc., also a small piece of land for a garden spot; these privileges I give unto my wife so long as she shall remain my widow; also my will is, and I do hereby order that my son John shall find unto and provide for my wife, his mother, yearly and every year so long as she shall remain my widow, 7 bushels of Ind. meal and 3 bushels of rye meal, 80 lbs. of good well fed pork and 60 pounds of good well fed beef; half a bushel of salt, one barrel of cider, half a bushel of malt, half a bushel of beans and turnips, potatoes and apples what she shall need for her own eating; also two pounds of sheep wool; yearly so long as she shall remain my widow. I also hereby will that my son, John Emerson, shall provide my wife with one cow and keep her winter and summer with and as he does his own, and drive said cow to and from pasture daily in the summer season while she remains my widow; also my will is that my said son John shall provide for my wife, his mother, 8 cords of wood cut fit for the fire and corded in the yard near the door yearly and every year while she shall remain my widow and also for the term of her said widowhood pay her yearly 12 shillings; also my will is that my said son John shall provide my wife, his mother, with a horse to carry her to and from God's house of Public worship when and so often as she shall be able and disposed to go and also at other times as there shall be occasion. I also give unto my said wife one cyder barrell and two brine tubs.

With a few exceptions I think my grandmother's ancestry was undistinguished for the qualities of popular acclaim — no governors, warriors, judges, so far as I know. They were almost

without exception plain, industrious, God-fearing men and women, farmers, sailors, merchants, mechanics, with here and there a little outcropping of art or literature or theology. But to such as they, were and to an equally Puritan-descended mother, I feel that I owe whatever of character and fortitude I may possess.

I see these vanished figures of the past in the light of my grandmother's eyes — and they seem so good to me that I cannot let this occasion pass without a small word of tribute to her blessed memory. My grandmother's long life of nearly ninety years was a life of service — a service of home, of church, of husband and children, of grandchildren and of all who by any ties of blood or stress of fortune claimed her aid and sympathy. I never heard that she entertained any aspirations toward any form of so-called new womanhood. The old was good enough for her and took all her time and strength. Although always deeply interested in the world's affairs, she was content to have the voting, as well as the fighting, done by her husband, her four sons, and her seven grandsons, all of which twelve votes I think she properly controlled, because she had been so potent in forming and influencing the characters of those who cast them. Of her four sons, two, one of them my father, and the other with us here today, served their country in the Civil War.

To me the best thing of the many good things about Amherst was my grandmother. It is a pleasure to recall her lovely face, her unsparing devotion, and her clear, calm mind, which shed its natural and ever-wholesome influence upon those about her. If other Amherst grandmothers were like her, and I doubt not there were many such, we need go no furthr to understand the all-pervading influence of New England, of New Hampshire, of Amherst, upon American life and character.

## *Address of Charles P. Spofford.*

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The professions of medicine and clergy have usually been recognized among the first in the settlement of all communitis. So it was in the beginning of Amherst. The brief time, extended me in the exercises of today preclude other than a limited biography or sketch of two of its earliest citizens.

Dr. Nathaniel Henchman and Rev'd. Jeremiah Barnard. The former my great grandfather and the latter my mother's great uncle.

Each bore in their respective calling positions of prominence which made their names forever associated with the early history of the town and which after the lapse of more than a century, time has not effaced.

Their descendants, so far as has come to my knowledge, are few; so this brief address must necessarily be abstracted from authoritive history, or family records which fortunately are well preserved.

The name Henchman, is an old, and distinguished one in Massachusetts history; during the Colonial and Revolutionary periods, and many pages could be written concerning their ancestors and their prominence during these days.

The first mentioned of the name; is that, of Daniel Henchman whose name is recorded as early as March, 1660, when he was employed at a salary of Forty Pounds to assist Mr. Woodmacy in the "Grammar School" to teach the children to write. (See N. E. Hist. & Genealog. Reg. vol. 37 p. 64.)

Later he was one of the Committee to lay out the new plantations at Quinsigamond Pond (Now known as Worcester) and to settle its affairs.

He was made Freeman in 1672 and was in command of the troops which terminated King Phillip's War. He is said to have received grants of land near Worcester and died there October 15, 1685.

He was twice married, and was the father of nine children, six of whom were sons.

The third of these was Nathaniel, who married Anna Green in 1694, to this marriage was born Nathaniel in 1700. He graduated at Harvard, in 1717. Was ordained minister at Lynn, Mass., in 1720 and served continuously until his death in 1761. He married Deborah Wayne in 1727, and of his children, Nathaniel was born April 1, 1728, and graduated at Harvard in 1747.

He became a physician and settled in Lynn Mass., where he married Margaret Mansfield in 1751. To this union were born three daughters and Dr. Nathaniel Henchman, the subject of these remarks. You will pardon me at this point to add

something relating to the other distinguished members of the family before I enter upon the immediate reference to Dr. Henchman of this town.

Daniel Henchman, his great uncle, was one of the first printers and publishers in America. To quote no less authority than Hon. Wm. H. Whetmore (for many years the City Registar of Boston) who said, "Mr. Henchman was the most eminent and progressive of any in that colony during the Revolutionary Period. His shop was at the southwest corner of Cornhill and State street, where he published and printed the first Bible and the first Testament printed in the English Language in America. He was also the first to engage in the manufacture of paper in America, being associated with Gillam Phillips, Benjamin Faneuil (the father of Peter Faneuil) Thomas Hancock and Henry Deering. This firm, or partnership, having received from the Massachusetts General Court exclusive right for making paper in the Province. Gen. Henry Knox, Washington's first Secretary of War, also served his time in Henchman's shop. His daughter, Lydia Henchman, married Thomas Hancock, a nephew of John Hancock; who later inherited his estate, they dying without children.

Daniel Henchman was for those days a wealthy man and gave largely of his fortune to the old South Church, and Harvard College (Vol. 6, N. E. G. R.) and lived to enjoy the shade of the old Elm on Boston Common which his grandfather Daniel set out, July 3, 1670 He died in Boston, February 25, 1761.

To resume the Dr. Nathaniel Henchman of Amherst it will be observed, he was of the fifth generation and the fourth to bear that name in succession. He was born in Lynn, Mass., 1762, probably studied medicine with his father, and after graduation at Harvard settled in the practice of his profession in this town, 1783.

He married Anna, daughter of Ephraim and Mary (Merriam) Crosby, of Billerica, Mass., a descendant of the notable family who were among the first settlers of that town, and who survived him many years. She was born March 6, 1760, and died here November 27, 1836. He died May 27, 1800.

Their children were four daughters and one son.

(1) Anna born September 9, 1782. Married Hon. Jedediah Kilburn Smith, a prominent official who filled the office of Representative to the Legislature, Member of the Governor's Council, Postmaster, and finally Member of Congress.

(2) Mary, born September 5, 1784. Died unmarried June 26, 1871.

(3) Sarah, born March 13, 1788. Married Joseph George of this town.

(4) Betsey, born April 20, 1790. Married Charles Porter, January 25, 1824, by Rev'd. Nathan Lord.

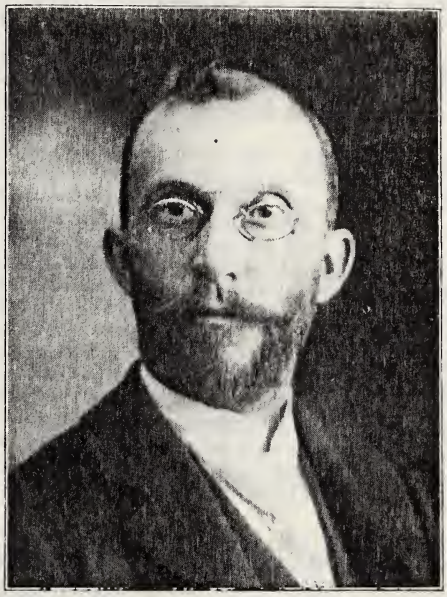
This latter being my grandmother whose family Bible with its family records is in my possession. Chas. Porter followed the sea, and married a lady in South Carolina (so it is said) but no trace of the family is known.

Kilburn Smith Porter was born in Amherst, February 19, 1829, and is the oldest living descendant of the family residing at the present writing in Lawrence, Mass.

Elizabeth Porter was born in Amherst, June 19, 1826, married John F. Willey and died at Laconia, N. H.

Emeline Barnard Porter, born in Amherst January 4 1831, married Benjamin Spofford of Manchester and died February 19, 1860.

The only son of Dr. Nathaniel Henchman was Dr. Nathaniel, born in Amherst, November 19, 1786. He was a student at Dartmouth Medical College. First settled in New Jersey, enlisted in the War of 1812 as a surgeon, and died



CHARLES B. SPOFFORD

at Woodsville, Mississippi, September 5, 1819. In yonder church yard, a large slate stone bears this record; "Erected by maternal affection to the memory of Dr. Nathaniel Henchman;" with the following record "In him, died the fifth of the same name, and the fourth of men to follow a public literary profession."

Such, my friends, finishes the story of this illustrious family.

It is noticeable that successive generations take the names of Daniel and Nathaniel, while the females were usually christened for aunts with a middle or a sur-name of their marriage. Similar names were familiar with those of

the related family of Rev'd. Jeremiah Barnard of whom we shall now speak.

REV. JEREMIAH BARNARD, the second ordained minister of your town was a son of Robert Barnard of Bolton, Mass., where he was born, February 28, 1750. He was graduated at Harvard College, 1773, and married Deborah Henchman, daughter of Dr. Nathaniel Henchman of Lynn, Mass., October 15, 1777, and a sister of Dr. Nathaniel Henchman of Amherst.

In March, 1780, at the request of Rev'd. Daniel Wilkins "Owing to infirmities and needed assistance," Mr. Barnard was ordained as his colleague, the Town voting 180 Pounds Lawful Money as settlement, and an annual salary of 80 Pounds until the expiration of the War with Great Britain should cease; when it should be augmented to 90 Pounds.

During this period differences arose regarding his support, and separate churches were organized. One at Mount Vernon, the other at Milford, both of which towns were then a part of Amherst.

He remained, however, over the original society until his colleague was selectd in the person of Rev'd Nathan Lord January 29, 1816, who remained here, until his election as President of Dartmouth College in 1828.

From an Historical Discourse by Rev. Josiah G. Davis on the Hundredth Anniversary of the Congregational Meeting House, given in 1874, we abstract the following, regarding Mr. Barnard: "There was little in his preaching to disturb the prevailing sentiments of the times, which appear to have been gambling, dancing, and convivial entertainments. He was said to have been an amiable man and made his house attractive to the young people, and contributed to the good order and social culture of the community. In this respect we might infer that he was a pioneer. He lived to the advanced age of 85 yars and died January 15, 1835, while his wife, Deborah Henchman, died October 12, 1833 age 80 years.

Several known publications attest his prominence as a public speaker. Among them being the Ordination Sermon of Rev'd John Tappan at Claremont in 1796. A Discourse before Benevolent Lodge A. F. and A. M. on St. John's Day, June 24, 1805, and also the charge to his colleague, Rev'd. Nathan Lord, January 29, 1816.

Rev'd. Jeremiah Barnard married Deborah Henchman October 15 1777. They had eight children, all daughters excepting two.

Robert "Mansfield" Barnard, who died at Watertown, Mass., October 13, 1863, and John "Henchman" Barnard, who died young.

Of the daughters, Betsey, the oldest, married Robert M. King and died at Rockdale, Iowa, January 14, 1872, at the age of 92. Polly married David S. Eaton, who died in Dorchester, Mass., August 17, 1860. Nancy married Hugh H. Clark November 8, 1808, and died at Amherst December 1, 1813. Lucretia, born July 26, 1796, married Timothy Danforth of Amherst January 11, 1838, she being his third wife.

Such, my friends, is the brief, but I trust, a comprehen-

sive sketch so far as my time is permitted of these two notable families. Your consideration of its details will possibly be considered by many as uninteresting, for I am aware that such is usually so considered unless it refers to ones own family. To them I only speak as from the past in honor of their memory and while several generations have come and gone and they left posterity doubtless as numerous, it is for us today that they left a heritage of honor and good citizenship, which future generations will cherish, and that we today have done our duty in their memory.

## *Dedication of the Granite Marker.*

### Preliminary Remarks by Rev. C. E. White, Secretary.

Friends:—The occasion of this 150th anniversary will probably be most vividly impressed upon *your* minds as the day when the heavens poured down rain in exasperating profusion. This feature of the day was not in any sense planned by the committee in charge. But upon us present here today we are sure there are other finer impressions you will treasure, of the hold our old town has on the affections of all its sons and daughters.

The committee, however, did not deem its full task done unless it should leave, as a result of this celebration, something which should impress the *coming* generations with a definite, ever visible reminder of this occasion and of the heroic labor of those who settled this town.

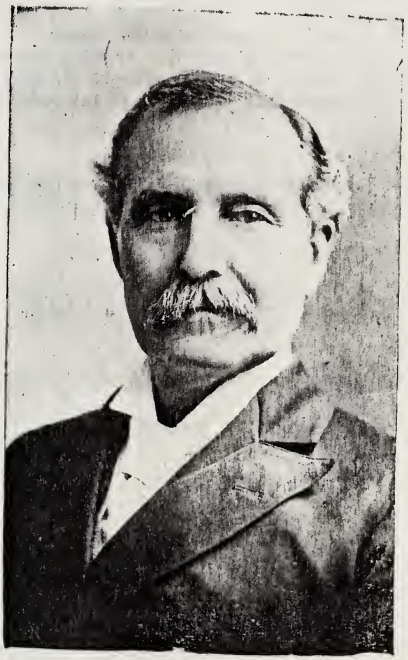
The committee has accordingly secured at a cost of $60.00 a granite marker, weighing half a ton, and placed the same on the site of the first meeting house, where those who come after us shall be able to read this simple but splendid record:

HERE WAS ERECTED THE
FIRST MEETING-HOUSE IN
AMHERST, MAY 16, 1739;
IN 1771 GIVEN TO THE
COUNTY FOR ITS
COURT-HOUSE; REMOVED
TO THE PLAIN IN 1789.
AND THERE BURNED.
THIS STONE
PLACED JUNE 17, 1910

There at the junction of the roads, near the Rogers place, this marker stands, and thither should we all occasionally wend our way to pay our reverent homage to those early men who built this town in righteousness.

## *Dedicatory Address by Dr. Richardson.*

This marker directs attention to that ancient meeting house. In thought, as we dedicate it, we stand on holy ground. We see those sturdy men and women in the attitude of worship. We hear the



REV. CYRUS RICHARDSON, D. D.

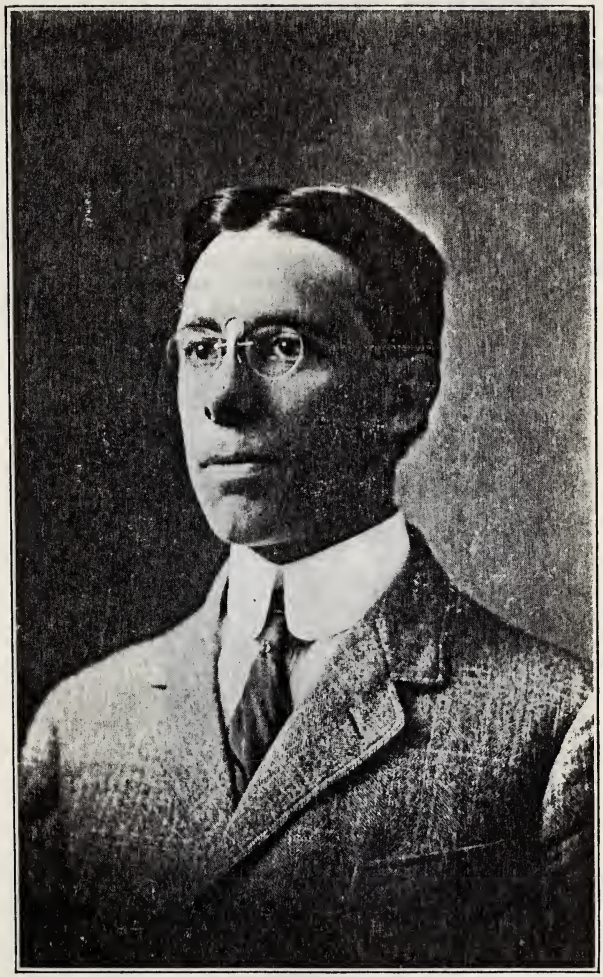
voice of the reverend minister as he reads the scripture, offers the prayer, and preaches the sermon. That house of God was the centre of life and activity. From it shone the light which illumined the pathway of its worshipers.

When we pass out of an age we do not cut aloof from it. We conserve all that is good in it. Its life blood goes into our veins. "Other men labored, and we have entered into their labors." We are deeply indebted to the heroic achievements of our early ancestors. Certain principles inculcated in that ancient structure which we now mark abide for our good. They have come down to us as a choice inheritance. What are they? First is the spirit of freedom which has dominated New England life, and through it, has dominated the

life of our whole country. Practically those early settlers said, "We will not be fettered, either in religion or in government. Neither popes nor kings shall dictate our beliefs and our worship. We are free." That spirit is today in the air everywhere. Men the world over are saying: "We will not be bound: we will claim our rights." Second is the spirit of sacrifice. The worshipers in that ancient meetinghouse faced perils, and endured hardships, and stood fearlessly at posts of duty. Life was strenuous, winsome graces were lacking; but rugged virtues shone with added lustre. This marker will help to perpetuate in thought their heroic deeds. Third is the doctrine of accountability to God. Though those early settlers feared neither king nor bishops, they *did fear Jehovah*. His word was supreme. Their watchcry was, "Thus saith the Lord."

That doctrine made them fearless. "If God be for us, who can be against us." It made them serious. If God looks down upon us frivolities are out of place. And so we today dedicate this marker to the glory of that old meeting-house in which worshipped those men and women whose names we honor and whose virtues we do well to emulate.

Dedicatory prayer by Rev. Daniel Merriman, D. D., of Boston.



REV. CHARLES ERNEST WHITE

Present Minister of the Congregational Church

# *ANNIVERSARY SERMON.*

**Delivered June 19, 1910, in Amherst, N. H., by Rev. Charles Ernest White, in View of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Exercises of the Town.**

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2 Thess. 2 : 15—"So then, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye were taught, whether by word or epistle of ours."

There is nothing in the chronology of this church to call for a special sermon today. The next year of note to this church is 1916,

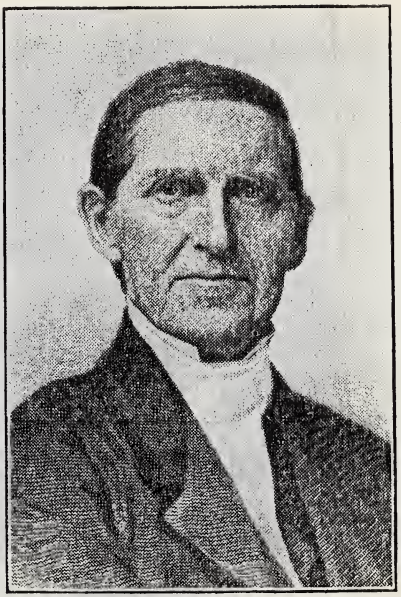
REV. NATHAN LORD

when one hundred and seventy-five years will have elapsed since its organization. It is not one of those anniversaries that ought to be observed with unusual ceremonies. There is no chronological compulsion; it is in a sense a task of my own setting.

And yet there appears to be an urgent obligation, after all, both to the past and to the present, to those of long ago and to those who remain unto this day. When we have passed through, so recently, a celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anni-

versary of the birth of our town, and when in our congregation this morning we find and welcome so many, to whom this church, both past and present, is most dear, and whose memories clinging about it are among the most precious they treasure,— in the presence of such compulsions, the occupant of this historic pulpit must take account of the occasion in some significant effort.

Something of the spirit in which this task is undertaken is gained from the passage from which the text comes. The apostle Paul in writing to the Thessalonians in this second letter, is discussing the question of God's chosen people. They, he would have his readers understand, are not simply the migratory Hebrew, who wandered o'er the hills and plains of those Eastern lands.



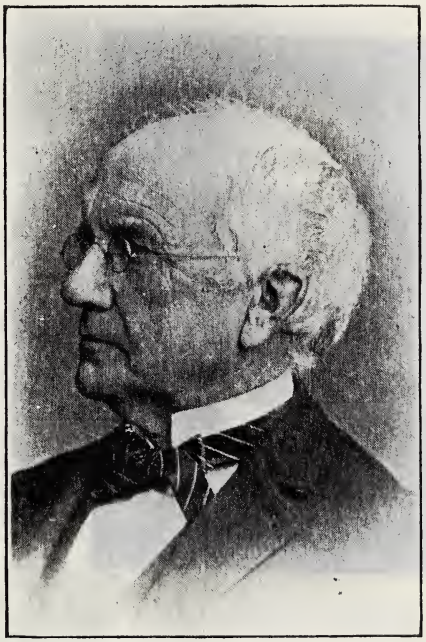
REV. SILAS AIKEN

They are, he would insist, men of every land who bow the knee, not to Baal or the Baal-spirit, but who bow before the Lord Jesus Christ. They, too, Thessalonians, are a chosen people,— chosen to a life, sanctified, made sacred, by the Spirit of God, and the knowledge and experience of truth. The possession of those two things lead on to the obtaining of the glory of this same Lord, the splendor and honor of the most High. And this is the noblest experience of an individual or a nation.

Because of the great value of these all too frequently unappropriated privileges, there is a pressing summons to steadfastness in aim and activity. "So then, brethren," he writes, "stand fast," do not be moved by the flood of adverse influences that may sur-

round you or catch you in its flood. Hold your ground." And one great help in enabling them so to stand he declares is "to hold the traditions which they were taught." These "traditions" are not like our conception of the word, a mingling of what is true and what others think ought to be true, the true and the near-true, the true and the supposedly true. The word has its root-thought in the idea of things handed down, delivered over, specifically conveyed from one person or generation to another. These things so handed down are the cardinal truths of the Gospel, the prime principles of the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

This, you will observe, is not the mere respect of the things of the past, not the hush at the mention of the days and men and



REV. JOSIAH C. DAVIS

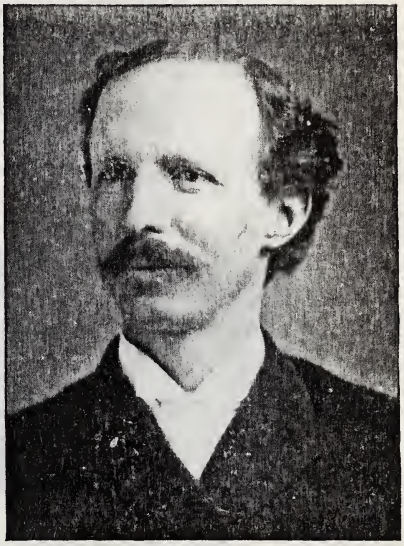
institutions gone by. It is the recalling of the essential facts that have come down to us from the past, and that with the emphasis less upon reverence, than restoration, of them; to rehabilitate these cardinal qualities in our lives today, holding fast that which is good, not simply because it is ancient but because it bears the imprint of sterling truth from the hand of the Highest.

Does this make clear what my part is today? Far be it from me to attempt the part of historian of this church, when on my desk and many of yours there lies the splendid history of this town, with its inclusions of church history, written by a son of this church. Even greater is the inhibition upon me when I take

up that store-house of information regarding this church and its building, in the published address of my distinguished predecessor in this pulpit, Doctor Davis, delivered at the one hundredth anniversary of the dedication of this house of worship.

But at this time when, by addresses and observances, we have been so finely reminded of the unique history of our town, there seems a task imposed on me to supplement those exercises in a brief recountal of the particular influence of this church upon our town's life.

To force a figure, Amherst, N. H., was born in Salem Village, (now Danvers), Mass. Its parents were God-fearing, godly people. If they did not magnify the love of God, they did not minimize the honor and reverence due Him. Affairs of state no less than affairs of individuals were concerns of His. To parents



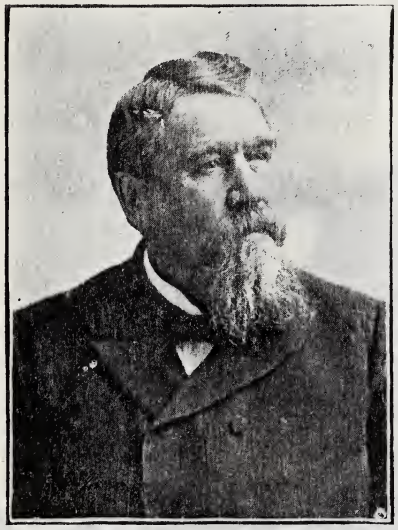
REV. WILLIS D. LELAND

of such antecedents was this child given. It was really a year old before it was brought up here, and twenty-six years old before it received the name it now bears.

It was on this wise, (to give facts not so new as necessary): "The General Assembly of the Massachusetts-Bay," in the words of a historian of 1746, "was in the Humor of distributing the property of much vacant province land." This was to be granted to descendants of veterans of the great Indian wars with King Phillip in 1675–'76. In 1733 representatives of a number of groups of would-be colonists met on "ye Boston common," and there this general province, Narragansett No. 3, or Souhegan West, was assigned to Richard Mower (Moore?). With him were associated some one hundred and twenty other "proprietors" from that gen

eral section of Danvers. Their first meeting was held July 17, 1734, at Salem Village, and the records of their proceedings from time to time are among the most valuable treasures of our library. A committee was sent up to investigate the land assigned to Mr. Mower, and brought back a good report of the region. Each proprietor was then assigned sixty acres as a home lot, and urged to build upon it immediately. By 1735 two of them, at least, Samuel Walton and Samuel Lampson, had settled on the site of the old Melendy house, situated on what was later the Boston turn-pike.

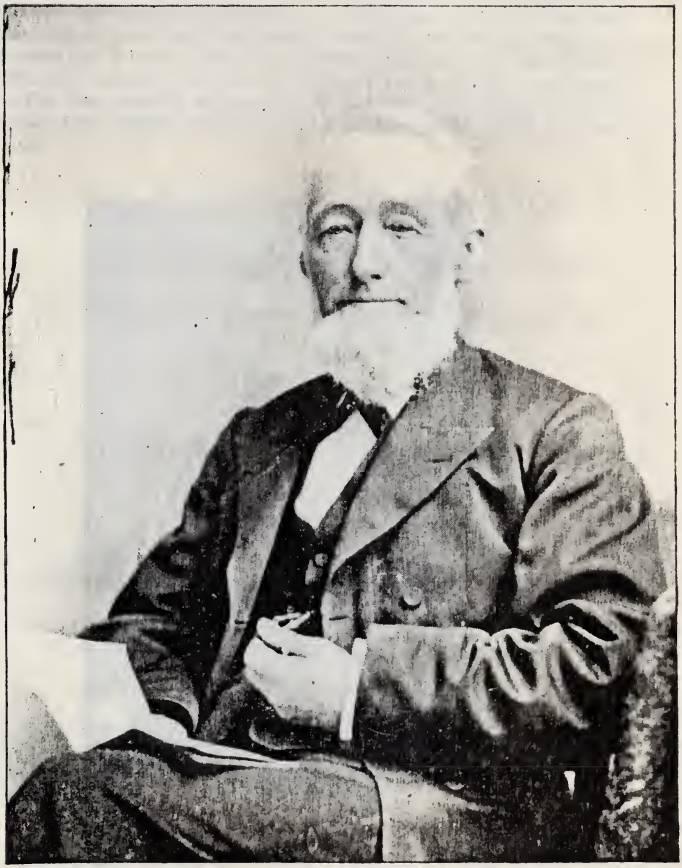
In imagination we can picture those hardy, God-fearing men and women pushing up through almost virgin wood-land, up from old Dunstable, (now Nashua), until they reached the banks of the Souhegan River. If the land was "a howling wilderness," theirs



REV. ALFRED J. McGOWN

was a God who could lead them through it, even as He had led that other chosen people in Biblical days.

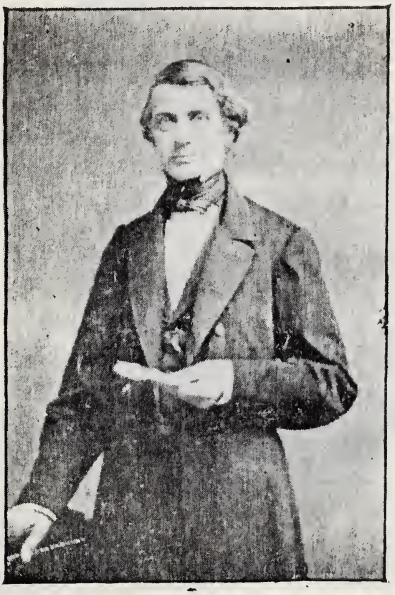
The same year they voted to take a view of the township, and "in the most commodious place therefor Lay out a place whereon to erect the Public Meeting House for the worship of God." Further, a lot was assigned "for the first settled Minister." Two years later (1737) they decided it was time to build a house, and they agreed upon the size, 45 x 22, with 22 foot posts, also voting to finish the outside and build a pulpit. It was not until May 16, 1739, apparently, that the building was raised. The stone marker yonder, placed this last week, indicates the place where, under Capt. Ebenezer Raymond, they erected it. Getting the frame up, however, was but a small part of the task; the "finishing of it" seems to have been a constant source of discussion and action at



DEA. EDWARD D BOYLSTON

meetings of the proprietors for many years. Four years and half later a committee was set to the task of getting "the meeting-house boarded, the flower laid, the body seets made up, the pulpit made, and the Doors made and hung as soon as can be."

The good old compound word, meeting-house, is impressive. Young and old of those early days had no difficulty in recognizing the difference between the church as a building and the church as an organization, a distinction many in our day fail to note. It was the meeting house of all that highest and best in the life of the community, where religion was kept human by its close association with the general interest of the people, and where the general life was kept religious by its continual association with the worship of God.

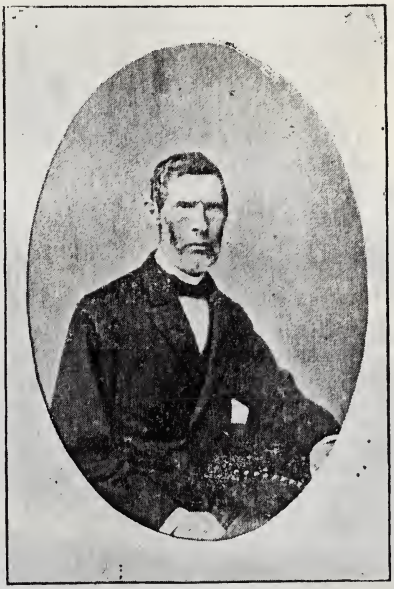


DEA. AARON LAWRENCE

The fathers were more expeditious about securing a minister than a meeting-house. A year before the house was raised, they voted to have "the word of God Preached among them for the next six months." At the expiration of that time they voted that the practice should be continued, with slight addition to the compensation for the preaching. In 1740 they voted to have "Preching amonths them till it is altered by a voat of the proprietors." Where they secured their preacher we do not know, although it was probably some college graduate of their number, or possibly the young man himself whom they later called to be their minister. At any rate, April 30, 1741, they agreed upon Daniel Wilkins, a Harvard graduate of 1736, as their minister. A

committee was appointed to "treet" with him regarding "Sallary and Settlement." Six months were consumed in making satisfactory arrangements, and then a committee on ordination was chosen, the first two members being Samuel Walton and Samuel Lampson, the first known settlers. They were allowed forty pounds, for the ordination expenses, but urged to use as much less as they could, frugality being a necessity in those days.

With a meeting-house in process of completion, and a prospective minister, the fathers still lacked a church organization. So a call was sent forth, and Sept. 22, 1741, nineteen ministers and delegates assembled here. Distances meant little to them. From as far as Lynn came Rev. Nathaniel Henchman, (whose son was



DEA. BARNABAS B. DAVID

one of our earliest physicians), who acted as moderator of the council; and Rev. Stephen Chase, who was the preacher of the sermon. There, probably near or in their rude and yet unfinished meeting-house, they organized that little church, from which we descend, and which has been from those days to the present the great source of vigor and virility of our town's life.

All honor to those first members, six in number, who were organized that day into the church of Christ in Amherst: Daniel Wilkins, pastor-elect, Samuel Leman, Israel Towne, Samuel Lampson, Caleb Stiles and Humphrey Hobbs.

The next day the council ordained and installed Mr. Wilkins as minister; and his wife with five other women were added to the roll of members. So began the ministry of forty-three years of

this leader of the people, a ministry which made possible the strong years of Amherst in another half century. He was a man of wise and vigorous utterance when he spoke in behalf of his parish. Governor Wentworth of the Province of New Hampshire, on more than one occasion listened with great respect to the communication from this leader. Through his appeal largely the newly made town of Amherst became the shire town in 1771 of the newly formed county. No estimate of the development of this little community and its great influence hereabouts can leave out the heroic labors of this learned and faithful leader of the people. No finer tribute to his long ministry and great worth to town and

THE LORD HOMESTEAD ON MONT VERNON ROAD

church than that fine epitaph on the stone in yonder old cemetery. —a shrine we of this later day ought to visit and venerate far more than we do.

Three years before the death of Mr. Wilkins the church and town called Jeremiah Barnard, of Bolton, Mass., to come and share the pastoral responsibilities. He was also a graduate of Harvard, in 1773. It may be interesting to note that the present minister ministered in a sense to the same church in Massachusetts from which Mr. Barnard came, the church in Berlin having been a part of the Bolton church, which separated from the mother church six years after Mr. Barnard left there.

His ministry of thirty-five years here was fruitful in the large

number of those who united with the church, and the still larger number who felt the impress of his strong, solid ministry. During his ministry, also, two companies went forth from this parish to found new parishes, with accompanying church organizations: the northwest parish was organized at Mont Vernon, September, 1780, with Rev. John Bruce as first pastor; the southwest parish being organized at Milford, November, 1788, although it was fourteen years before they secured a minister in the person of the noteworthy Rev. Humphry Moore.

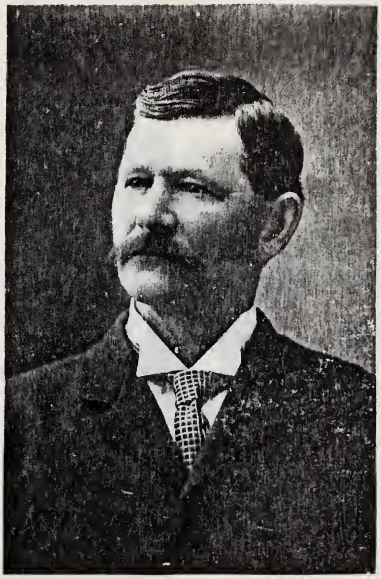
Mr. Barnard's preaching must have been attractive and impressive. The diary of John Farmer fell into my hands recently, — one of the ablest of the many able young men who were asso-

TOMBSTONE OF REV. DANIEL WILKINS, FIRST PASTOR

ciated with the "Cabinet" in its earliest days. Those young men were moving elements in that time, and much of their direction and impulse to the finest things must have been gained from the ministry of this man of God, Jeremiah Barnard. Mr. Farmer's many references to these sermons from time to time attest strongly to this force and fact.

A lover of peace, Mr. Barnard was strong in his opposition to the movement which led to the war of 1812 against the mother country. Nothing flaccid was there about his convictions, and great in his heart was his fear of the Lord, and the weight and influence he exerted in the civic affairs of our town has been equalled by none of our ministers.

The third minister called by the town and church was Nathan Lord, of South Berwick, Maine, a graduate of Bowdoin in 1809. He was ordained and installed as colleague with Mr. Barnard, May 22, 1816, and never served as full pastor. Keen, orthodox, perhaps, to excess, cultured and eloquent, he was easily one of the first rank of ministers in the state. A marked contrast to his predecessor and father-associate in spirit, he did not comfortably accept opposition, and as a result of controversies centering around the person of Christ a slight movement from the church resulted in the formation of a Unitarian church in 1825. After a ministry of a dozen years, which left deep impressions upon many of the leading men of his day, and which shaped much of the



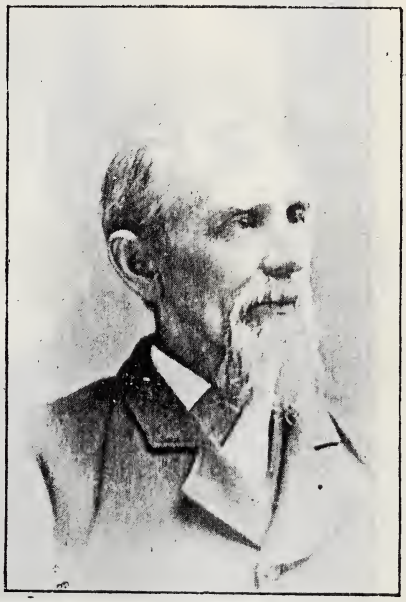
DEA. A. MILTON WILKINS

policy of the time, he was called to the presidency of Dartmouth college, an honor which testified to his marked ability as a leader and administrator, in a position which he filled for forty years.

With the departure of Mr. Lord, the so-called town ministry ceased, the society now assuming the financial obligations. Under the new arrangements the fourth pastor was called, Silas Aiken, born in Bedford, a graduate of Dartmouth in 1825, and tutor there for three years following his graduation. He was ordained March 4, 1829, and installed as was Mr. Lord, as colleague with Mr. Barnard, then an honored servant of the Lord nearly four score years old. In a ministry of eight years Dr. Aiken made probably the deepest spiritual influence on this community of any minister

serving here. In 1831 sixty persons united with the church, while four years later the town was stirred from the very depths by an arousement which even closed the places of business for a season that there might be full opportunity for the voice of the Lord through this servant to be heard. Over a hundred men and women added to the church were but a small part of the apparent results of this wave of religious awakening coming in Mr. Barnard's ministry. His departure to the Park Street Church, Boston, was a serious loss to the church and community.

Need one pause to lay emphasis upon the influence of this ministry upon all the life of Amherst in those days?

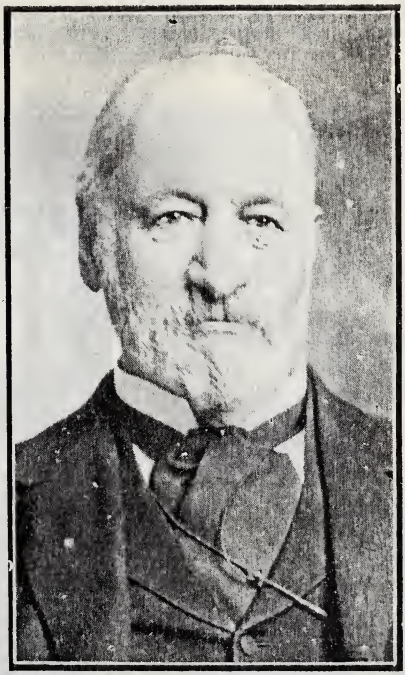


CAPT. GEORGE W. BOSWORTH
Long a Sunday-School Superintendent

The fifth and sixth pastorates were brief as pastorates in this church have gone. Rev. Frederick A. Adams, Ph. D., of New Ipswich, was settled November 15, 1837, continuing until September 24, 1840. He was a man of scholarly accomplishments, an able preacher, whose words had weight, whose ministry was impressive. A teacher by heart he afterwards gave himself to that labor, and so continued, in the deep esteem of all who came under the sway of his personality. His successor was Rev. William T. Savage, D. D., of Bangor, and was installed February 24, 1840. During his ministry of three years the churches of New England were beginning to be disturbed regarding the rightfulness of slavery, and Amherst did not lack in warm advocates of both

sides. To steer not only church but public opinion through such troubled water in safety was no small task given to Doctor Savage. He also saw an ingathering of sixty-seven to the church in 1812. His ministry though brief was valuable and lasting.

Josiah G. Davis, of Concord, Mass., a Yale graduate of 1836, was invited to become the seventh minister in the noble succession. During his ministry of thirty-five years and more, Amherst was in its most thriving condition, a town of importance and a center

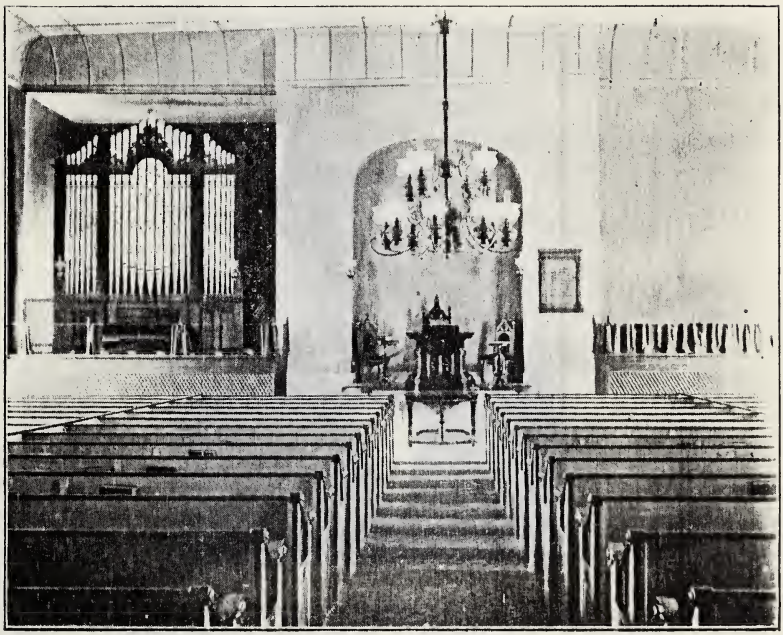


DEA. WILLIAM A. MACK

of large interests. Socially, economically and politically it was prominent, and in all these realms the influence of Doctor Davis was felt markedly. Public-mindedness, fine judgment and sound discrimination were the principles of his action. His preaching was of that high type that educates and inspires, his ministry was as wide as the needs of his people. Few, if any, of this line of ministers, have made so deep and enduring an impression upon this town as Doctor Davis. Let me read to you the words of this beautiful bronze tablet beside me, which so fittingly and concisely phrase the esteem in which he was and is held:

IN MEMORY OF
JOSIAH GARDNER DAVIS
PASTOR OF THIS CHURCH
FOR 35 YEARS; A
GOOD CITIZEN; A WISE COUN-
SELLOR; A FAITHFUL SERVANT
OF GOD; AND A PREACHER OF
THE GOSPEL OF HIS DEAR SON
BORN 1815 — DIED 1894
PRAISE YE THE LORD

The pastorate following this notable one was brief, but memorable, and many recall with gratitude the varied ministrations of



INTERIOR OF CHURCH BEFORE BEING REMODELLED BY MR. TOWNE

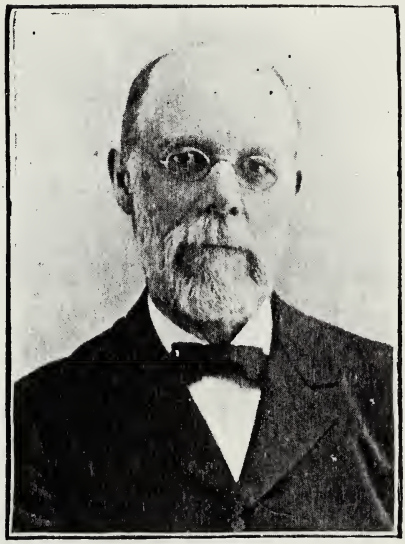
Willis D. Leland, who was settled January 22, 1880, and dismissed May 16, 1883.

The ninth pastorate returned to the fine old custom of a long term of service, and was fruitful of great and permanent good to the town. Alfred J. McGown, of Mt. Desert, Maine, was settled December 1, 1885, and for two decades ministered faithfully in season and out to the necessities of the parish and town. Generous in his strength, sincere in his spirit, warm-hearted in his devotion, broad-minded in his interests, the town and all its interests owes much to his constant and loyal service.

The present pastorate, the tenth in a period of nearly 170 years,

began January 19, 1906, Mr. White being a native of Vermont and a graduate of Brown University in 1897.

Here then, we have reviewed in the briefest way, the list of leaders of this old church, who in their ministries of varied duration and varying stress have shaped the life of this community through the people to whom they have ministered. And what is true of the ministry has been in large measure true of the noble line of leaders in the pew, in the honored roll of deacons, from Humphry Hobbs, the first, to Aaron M. Wilkins, whom the Lord has but recently called to Himself. Women of exceptional ability, too, have contributed to the higher life of this town, among whom not to mention more, one might place Miss Lucy W. Blunt, the Misses Bolston, and the Misses Lawrence.



JAMES W. TOWNE, ESQ.

Fortunate is the people whose forbears made such pursuits their constant aim. The record of their lives is most valuable; the recounting of their ventures into this higher life are of great interest and worth; the treasuring of their traditions is one of our most urgent tasks. The rich man counts his treasures and covets more. The true man cherishes his traditions, and knows none better. With such figures in the tapestry of the past, with such facts in the storehouse of treasures, with such forces in all the affairs of the days gone by, the final word to you this morning is the word of Paul with which we began, "So then, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which we were taught, whether by word or by epistle of ours." And may the God of the past be ours for all the days, to whom be all the honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

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